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Radical Soviet Faction Calls For Split in Communist Party

MOSCOW — A leader of a powerful bloc of Soviet Communist Party radicals demanded an immediate split in party ranks on Wednesday and the formation of a social democratic party.

The call, after an attack on Communist radicals by party conservatives, set the stage for a possible breakdown of the party before a congress this summer. President Mikhail S. Gorbachev denounced the radicals, accusing them of wanting to restore capitalism.

The radicals, although a minority in the party's policy-setting Central Committee, command a much stronger following among the Soviet population and thus pose a threat to the party orthodoxy.

A party radical, Igor Chubais, said attacks on his Democratic Platform by party conservatives represented a coup by Yegor K. Ligachev and his conservative allies and marked the start of a witch hunt.

"We call on all Communists to leave the party, to stop paying dues and join the new party of the Democratic Platform," said Mr. Chubais, a member of the group's coordinating council.

His comments responded to an "open letter" from the Central Committee, still largely in the hands of conservatives, which assailed the Democratic Platform.

Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, a Moscow won't impose economic sanctions on Lithuania, Britain's foreign minister says. Page 2.

Democratic Platform leader and rector of the Moscow Higher Party School, denounced the letter for ignoring what he termed the menace of the hard right.

He told the Moscow Radio publication Interfax that conservative forces within the party represented a far greater threat than his wing.

Mr. Gorbachev, in comments made to a Communist youth organization meeting on Tuesday and broadcast on television on Wednesday, said the radicals in the Democratic Platform were essentially looking for a way to further their careers.

"If you listen to these politicians who defend this platform, one can realize they want to defend their political ambitions," he said.

"They are calling us to a different social system, to capitalism,"

Mr. Gorbachev said. "One should see that."

Capitalism was eradicated after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 in Russia and neighboring republics when factories and banks were taken into state ownership. Some radicals are demanding a return to market economics and private ownership.

Soviet television's main nightly news bulletin on Tuesday broadcast the text of the Central Committee's letter, which was printed in the party daily Pravda. "The time has come to decide what to do about those who put themselves outside the party," the letter said. "How can they stay in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union?"

A Democratic Platform congress is set for late May, but Mr. Chubais said the attacks by the Central Committee might force the group to act more quickly.

The reading of the letter, repeated on television on Wednesday, came after recent attacks on proponents of change within the party by Mr. Ligachev and other conservatives. Mr. Ligachev accused the leadership under Mr. Gorbachev on Sunday of weakness toward the radicals and demanded it get rid of them immediately.

Allies Reject the Soviet Suggestion Of Dual Military Role for Germany

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — The British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, said Wednesday that he found it difficult to imagine how to put into practice a Soviet suggestion that a united Germany should belong to NATO and to the Warsaw Pact until a new all-European security system was developed.

A Soviet diplomat said later that Moscow did not view Mr. Hurd's negative reaction as a definitive rejection of the idea.

But Mr. Hurd and other Western diplomats in Moscow said they thought the suggestion was just part of the Soviet scramble to change position as the strategic ground in Eastern Europe keeps crumbling underneath them.

[In Brussels, a spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization said the alliance rejected the Soviet proposal, adding, "The allies are not considering the possibility of a unified Germany being part of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact." Reuters reported.]

[In Washington, the Bush administration rejected the Soviet plan, saying that German membership in NATO is "the best guarantee for long-term peace and continued stability." The Associated Press reported.]

The proposal for Germany to

belong to both alliances came up, Mr. Hurd said, during his two days of talks with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

"The Soviet Union is not pressing now specifically for a united Germany to be neutral," he said, but it still objects to full German membership in NATO alone after unification, as the United States, West Germany and Britain insist.

"We all agree that NATO should change," Mr. Hurd said, "and that we should look for a new structure."

Some of that could emerge from a projected meeting later this year of leaders of the 35 nations that signed the 1975 Helsinki agreement of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

But, he said, "the question which has not yet been settled is whether the new system would involve actual security guarantees — old-fashioned military guarantees — of borders by all 35 states. That is a much bigger step than most Western countries have contemplated."

The Soviet suggestion of simultaneous membership in NATO and in the Warsaw Pact while these problems are worked out, Mr. Hurd said, "illustrates the Soviet search for something which is neither neutrality nor full membership in NATO."

"I think it's hard to see how that would work," he said. "Try to imagine yourself as secretary of state for defense and presiding over a ministry that belonged to two opposing alliances."

A West German diplomat said the Soviet idea was an attempt to salvage something of the Soviet strategic and military position in Europe before continuing rapid change in Eastern Europe precluded most of its options.

He pointed out that Czechoslovakia and Hungary have already demanded the withdrawal of the Soviet troops stationed in those countries, and that as a functioning military alliance the Warsaw Pact no longer has any real meaning.

Mr. Hurd said the question of what should happen to the 400,000-plus Soviet troops now stationed in East Germany had not arose during his talks in Moscow.

Valentin M. Falin, Mr. Gorbachev's chief adviser on Germany, said earlier this week that the Soviet forces in East Germany and U.S. forces in West Germany could be reduced over a five-year transitional period, or removed altogether in seven years, provided the end result was a new pan-European security system to replace both alliances.

"There should be no question of bundling the Soviet troops out," Mr. Hurd said.



Mr. Peres conferring with Mr. Porush of the rigorously Orthodox Agudat Israel party on Wednesday during a special Knesset session.

Peres Foiled on Majority

2 Legislators Suddenly Quit Labor Coalition

By Jackson Diehl
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — The leader of the Labor Party, Shimon Peres, failed in his attempt to set up a new government on Wednesday after two religious legislators suddenly defected from his parliamentary coalition, renewing the deadlock in Israel's political crisis.

After the aborted special session of the Knesset, or parliament, in which Mr. Peres was to have presented his new government, President Chaim Herzog granted him 14 more days to put together a coalition capable of mustering a parliamentary majority.

But political analysts and even some Labor Party leaders said Mr. Peres, who had barely managed to assemble a two-vote margin weeks of back-room bargaining, would now face an uphill battle to regain a majority in the Knesset.

The sudden blow to Mr. Peres came Wednesday, when two members of a rigorously Orthodox party, Agudat Israel, who had signed a coalition agreement with Labor suddenly announced that they would not vote for the new government.

One of the two legislators, Avraham Verdiger, resigned from the parliament, and the second, Eliezer Mizrahi, said he would remain in the parliament but leave his party.

The defections reduced Mr. Peres's support in the 120-seat Knesset to 59 votes, making it impossible for him to win the necessary majority of confidence in his government.

Paris Takes Heat for Warming to Libya

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

PARIS — The French government was hit by a wave of criticism Wednesday because of its decision to normalize ties with the Libyan regime for its aid in freeing three hostages from Beirut.

At least one French newspaper quoted Palestinian officials as saying that the hostages may have been held in Libya after having been moved there from Lebanon.

These assertions had the effect of placing responsibility on Libya for the abduction of one French and seven Belgian citizens off the coast of Lebanon in 1987. President Francois Mitterrand of France, meanwhile, was expressing his "personal thanks" to the Libyan leader, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, for his help in liberating the hostages.

The French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, described the col-

onel's actions as "noble and humanitarian."

The French press almost unanimously maintained that the Libyan ruler deserved no thanks, because he continues as patron of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, also called the Abu Nidal group, which took the eight hostages and acts on direct orders from Libya.

The British press called France's praise of Colonel Gadhafi "nauseating" and said that its willingness to make concessions to Libya amounted to "groveling" and "international hypocrisy."

The left-of-center Le Monde said in a front-page editorial Wednesday: "One can only be astonished about the compelling tribute addressed under the circumstances by French officials to Colonel Gadhafi."

"The sudden generosity of Colonel Gadhafi fools no one," the French daily continued, referring to the Libyan leader's efforts in

behalf of hostages presumably taken under his directives.

The conservative Le Figaro went further, asking France to work toward the overthrow of Colonel Gadhafi, a "black stone in the middle of North Africa who is far from finished surprising us."

"The Libyan dictator is hated by the Egyptians, the Tunisians, the Algerians and the Moroccans," the paper added.

Senior French officials seemed taken aback Wednesday by the reaction.

But no officials of the Socialist government of President Mitterrand or the rightist opposition, led by former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, would comment publicly.

Mr. Dumas argued that France had not dishonored itself, because it had conducted the talks with Libya on a "state-to-state" basis and had refrained from any contacts with the terrorist group.

Other officials of the French Foreign Ministry, who asked to remain anonymous, said the criticism was the result of envy. They pointed out that France, which has extracted all its hostages from Lebanon, had succeeded where others had failed.

The last of those hostages was Jacqueline Valente, 52, who arrived in Paris on Tuesday night. With her was her companion, Ferdinand Houtekins, 43, a Belgian, and their daughter, Sophie-Liberte, 2.

Miss Valente is considered the last of 14 French hostages taken in Lebanon since 1985 and held by pro-Iranian militias and the Palestinian Abu Nidal group.

It was revealed Wednesday that she and her Belgian friends were taken captive as they cruised the Mediterranean on a pleasure boat off the port of Sidon, Lebanon, not off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Abu Nidal had asserted that those aboard the ship were Israeli spies.

Kiosk Bomb Kills 11 In Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) — A car bomb exploded outside a police barracks near Colombia's cocaine capital of Medellin on Wednesday, killing 11 people, a local radio station said.

Radio Caracol said the bomb exploded in the town of Itagui, south of Medellin.



Kurt Masur, conductor of Leipzig's Gewandhaus Orchestra, has been named to lead the New York Philharmonic. Page 2.

General News
Fire doors malfunctioned on the Scandinavian Star, an investigator said. Page 2.

Pakistan put its troops on alert as separatists stepped up violence in Kashmir. Page 6.

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OPEC members held urgent talks as world oil prices fell further. Page 11.

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2,729.73	DM 1.6705
Down	Pound 1.6435
1.35	Yen 157.80
	FF 5.616

Lack of Economic Change Could Split Prague's Leadership

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Service

PRAGUE — The slow pace of economic change has eroded public confidence in Czechoslovakia's transition government and is threatening a major rift among the democratic forces that ended 42 years of Communist rule last fall.

After weeks of government disagreement over a package of economic changes, Jan Urban, one of President Vaclav Havel's key lieutenants, threatened an open break unless concrete proposals were sent to the Federal Assembly by the end of this month.

Unless progress is made by then, the grass-roots Civic Forum movement that was instrumental in bringing down the Communist government and put-

ting Mr. Havel in power "will have to become the strongest opposition this country has ever known," said Mr. Urban, Civic Forum's leader.

A faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Václav Klaus favors postponing drastic changes in the still centrally controlled economy until after legislative elections, which are scheduled for June 8. They fear that voters might be alienated by the introduction of economic changes that could cause short-term inflation and dislocation.

Mr. Urban, Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and their followers advocate the immediate passage of tough economic legislation before the Federal Assembly recesses for the election campaign. They

argue that the public will accept the hardships and blame Communist misrule for creating the crisis.

Unless the changes are adopted now, they say, the coalition government that is likely to emerge from the elections will be accused of wasting valuable time and risk serious political buffeting by next winter.

The major dispute within the government is when and price controls, especially on basic consumer goods. Mr. Klaus favors quick action, while his opponents want to spread the impact over two to three years.

"We're dissatisfied with the snail's pace on the economic package," Mr. Urban said, "and warn the presidency and our citizens that we risk much great-

er difficulties by postponing the reforms than by jumping into the stream right now."

Sensing the government's split over the proposed changes, groups ranging from would-be capitalists to subsidized miners demonstrated outside the Federal Assembly this week to express their own grievances.

After unions threatened a general strike later this month unless they were consulted on the changes, Prime Minister Marian Calfa promised last week that the cabinet would discuss them.

But a senior economic source in the government reported that major policy differences remained un-

resolved.

The crisis has prompted a campaign to change the political system. A rally for electoral change in Tel Aviv was attended by tens of thousands of Israelis on Saturday.

Mr. Herzog, a supporter of electoral change, said Wednesday that "what has been happening raises serious questions about the system of government."

Leaders of the campaign to change the electoral system as they want a coalition government set up for the sole purpose of changing the system to eliminate small parliamentary factions are

Budapest: Happy in Despair

Arts and the State Are Still Inseparable Bedfellows

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

BUDAPEST — A summary wave of the hand dismissed any question about the state of the arts in Hungary. "Who cares?" the journalist said. "These days the daily news is more interesting than anything anybody could make up."

The first democratic elections in more than 40 years had taken place the day before, and it looked as if the center-right had won. The parties of the left for which most cultured people voted had lost because, they say, many of the leaders are Jews. Xenophobia and anti-Semitism are on the rise.

"I'm asking about culture, not politics," I said. "You can't separate them." I was told repeatedly.

People in the arts were pessimistic about the anarchy potential in an election with 60 political parties. They worried about mismanaged democracy, inefficient capitalism and the oppressed Hungarian minority in Romania. I tried cheering them up — "Sounds just like France" — but they were happy in their despair. Every day seems to be "Gloomy Sunday" in today's Hungary.

A filmmaker informed me that the industry has been hijacked by Western distribution. Worse, he said, a festival of 10 major Hungarian productions produced in 1989 had been an artistic as well as a commercial disaster. Several authors said that except for Gyorgy Konrad there was little interesting writing these days. The canvases I saw in galleries around Budapest were painted with tourist-grabbing *déjà vu*. The Vigadó Theatre was offering "The Threepenny Opera."

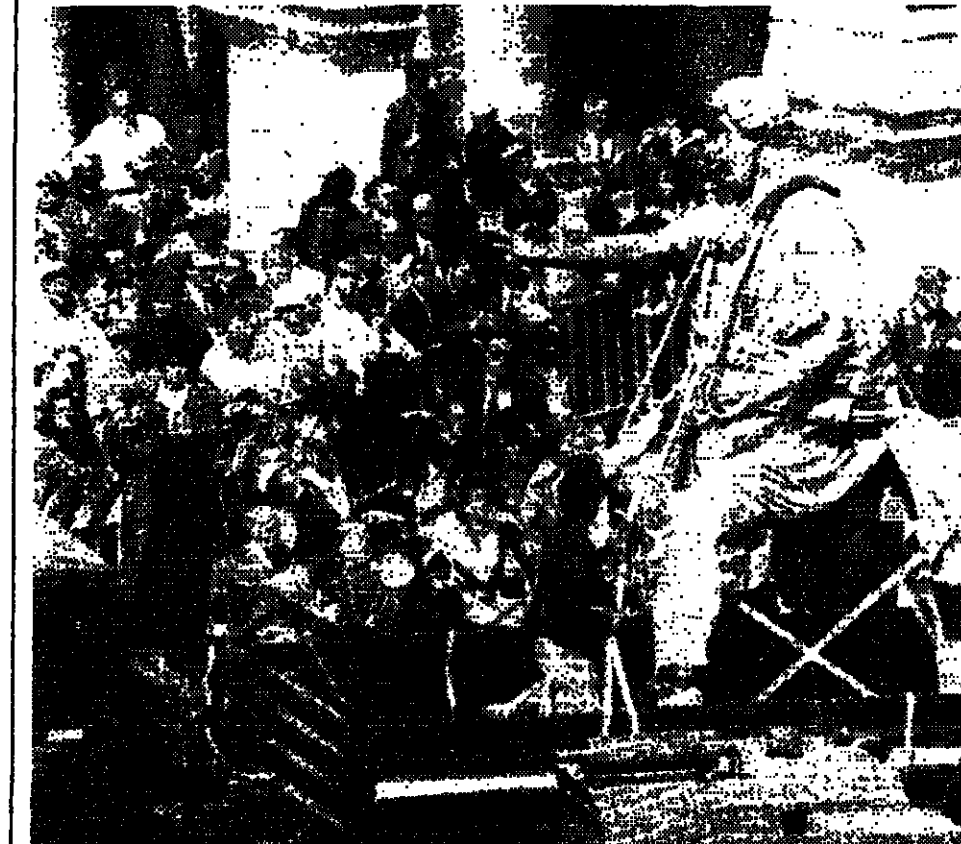
"I concentrated on musicians, who in general tend to separate creativity from politics better than

most, certainly here. "I didn't vote," many of them said. "All politicians are the same."

The Gypsy jazz guitarist Gyuha Babos earned a packetful of Deutsch marks programming elevator music on a computer. Instead of a shopping spree, he paid Terri Lynne Carrington and Victor Bailey, a hot rhythm section, to fly over from New York and record with him. He said he loved the way they combined total professionalism with the enthusiasm of amateurs. "Let's play," they kept saying, interrupting verbal explanations during the first rehearsal, two days before election day.

Tibor Szemzo, who hopes to "remain an amateur all my life," said: "I like the way the Havel people in Czechoslovakia are trying to remain political amateurs. Being a 'professional' with a capital P means you have all the answers before the questions are asked."

After listening to Charles Mingus and then learning flute sonatas in the conservatory, he discovered minimalism, which provided him with the sort of order and clarity he had sought from the beginning. He calls Group 130, which he founded and plays contemporary music by John Cage and Steve Reich, among others, "the best and most



A ROMAN'S RETURN TO THE SADDLE — Crowds welcoming the ancient bronze equestrian statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius back to its home on the Capitoline on Wednesday after nearly a decade of work to repair pollution damage. Marcus Aurelius and his horse are to be kept under glass in a museum on the hill until officials decide where to site them permanently.

China Said To Impose Travel Ban

By Daniel Southerland
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — The Chinese authorities have banned travel by foreigners to the entire southern part of the remote Xinjiang region, a cordoning off foreigners reaching Beijing from the area on Wednesday.

At the same time, a recent edition of the official Xinjiang Daily said Chinese officials in a northern district of Xinjiang bordering the Soviet Union had suppressed certain "illegal organizations" that were trying to "split the country."

The travel ban indicates the anti-Chinese ethnic unrest may extend well beyond the area around the oasis city of Kashgar, where Chinese troops are reported to have been deployed to suppress rioting by Muslims.

The Chinese government has declined to comment on the reports of ethnic unrest. But foreign travelers said Wednesday that government guides had told them that travel to the part of Xinjiang south of the Tian Mountains had been banned.

The travelers are tourists and businessmen. One of them said several cities and towns in particular

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Soviets Said to Bar Lithuania Blockade

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Soviet authorities have decided not to impose an economic blockade on Lithuania, British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, said after talks Wednesday with Kremlin leaders.

In Washington, President George Bush met with Baltic-American leaders to discuss U.S. support for Lithuania's efforts to prevent a Lithuanian secession.

Mr. Hurd spoke after suggesting by Soviet officials that economic sanctions could be among the reasons to rescind its March 11 declaration of independence.

"One of the points made to me is that a decision has been made to interrupt the flow of necessary materials to Lithuania," Mr. Hurd said after two days of talks.

He said Britain was concerned about the situation in Lithuania because a great deal is at stake in a general framework of East-West relations.

"Our interest is to encourage a dialogue by talk, talk, talk," he continued. "It is not for us to be in public but it is for us to emphasize to the Soviet Union and the Lithuanians how much is at stake."

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, said, "drew a sharp distinction between the way this situation was handled and other situations in previous administrations in other parts of Europe."

The council that advises Mr. Gorbachev said this week that the Lithuanian would use political, economic and other measures to persuade Lithuania to withdraw its declaration and hold talks with Moscow on secession on the basis of Soviet law.

A Gorbachev spokesman said Lithuania received raw materials at low world prices and suggested that measures could be taken to ensure uninterrupted supplies of Lithuanian goods to Soviet enterprises.

Lithuania's leadership has ruled out rescinding the proclamation of independence, and said that a new law on Soviet law on secession does not apply to it because the republic was annexed illegally in 1940.

Leaders of the Baltic-American groups who met with President Bush in Washington, urged him to take steps toward recognizing Lithuanian independence, but said that he continued to refuse to do so.

"We are disappointed with the official policy of the United States by not extending recognition" to President Vytautas Landsbergis's government, said Anthony Mazzei of the Baltic American Freedom League.

Even so, Baltic-American leaders said they were pleased to have spoken with Mr. Bush after being turned down earlier for meetings.

"We have a lot of very good contacts on the lower and middle levels of the State Department," said Mari-Ann Rikken, chairman of the Joint Baltic American National Committee. "It's just the White House we haven't been able to penetrate. We used to wear out the threshold of the previous administration."

Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d spent more than an hour with Americans representing the interests of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Mr. Mazzei said they pressed the president and Mr. Baker to grant de facto recognition of the Landsbergis government as an intermediate step toward full diplomatic ties.

Asked if Mr. Bush left the impression he was sympathetic to that idea, Ms. Rikken said, "No, but the fact that I met with us, the fact that I think we made an impression, that this is not some sort of an emotional appeal — I think that had an impact."

Mr. Mazzei said that Mr. Bush expressed sympathy but said he "has to consider the other agendas as well as his feeling that there must be a way to support Gorbachev's overall efforts for democratic reform."

Mr. Bush said Tuesday that the Soviet president's tolerance of democratic freedoms in Warsaw Pact nations had demonstrated "a commitment to reform and openness that's remarkable."

(Reuters, UPI, AP)

East German Forms His Unification Government

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The prime minister-designate, Lothar de Maiziere, completed the formation of his government on Wednesday as major political factions agreed on East Germany's negotiating position in reunification talks with West Germany.

The agreement clears the way for the parliament to formally put Mr. de Maiziere's government in office so that it can begin merger talks.

"Now it is good," Mr. de Maiziere said when the talks ended after nearly a week.

No details of the agreement were released, but it probably included some concessions to the Social Democrats. That party wants to retain some social programs to ease the transition to a market economy for East Germans, who are dependent on heavy subsidies.

Mr. de Maiziere, like Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, is seeking a quick shift to a market economy and a fast merger. He is expected to prevail; his party has the most seats in parliament.

In Bonn, a West German spokesman said Chancellor Kohl wanted to sign a treaty on monetary union between the two states by May 6, with the currency merger to go into effect by July 7.

Mr. Kohl's spokesman, Dieter Vogel, said the chancellor wanted talks to begin quickly on the issue of converting East German currency into West German marks.

But Mr. de Maiziere said an East German timetable for unification "was not yet fixed."

East Germany is expected to face widespread unemployment as the nation moves from four decades of socialism to a market economy.

The nation would have to experience an 8.5 percent annual growth rate to head off widespread unemployment, according to a study by the Institute for International Politics and Economics in East Berlin.

The press agency ADN said the institute estimated that a 5 percent growth rate still would result in up to 1.5 million jobs by 1995, and 2.6 million by 2000.

According to official figures, about 70,000 East Germans in the workforce of 7.2 million are unemployed.

An increasingly restive workforce, worried about unemployment, planned demonstrations to coincide with the second session of the parliament on Thursday.

Meanwhile, farmers who are worried about property rights vowed to drive their tractors through East Berlin and telephone workers called strikes.

A farmers' organization said Wednesday that it would drive tractors and farm implements through East Berlin to demand an orderly transition to private ownership of property.

Telephone and other electronics workers fearing unemployment have called a three-hour strike for Thursday in East Berlin.

Sweden's leading and most prolific authors.

He became a force among the "proletarian writers," who built their stories on the lives of poor workers and peasants. His writings in the 1930s helped end a system where farm workers were paid only in kind and were strongly dependent on landowners.

Mr. Johansson was particularly noted for novels on the life of the poor, including "Farewell to the Land," "Royal Road" and "The Tractor." He produced some 60 works from 1927 to 1986. In 1985, France named him an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters.

(AP, AFP)

STOCKHOLM — Ivar Lo-Johansson, 89, a novelist whose powerful stories about landless peasants spurred changes in farm policy 60 years ago, died Wednesday of cancer.

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(AP, AFP)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT — The Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, a former Communist lawmaker, who wrote the music for the film "Zorba the Greek," waving at supporters of the New Democracy party after being sworn in as minister without portfolio by the conservative government, which took office Wednesday. Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis of New Democracy vowed after being sworn in to restore confidence in democratic institutions.

Ferry's Fire Doors Were Faulty

The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN — Fire doors malfunctioned and ventilation ducts were left open in the fire that struck the Danish ferry Scandinavian Star, a fire inspector said Wednesday at a marine inquiry.

But the captain of the ship, Hugo Larsen, told the investigators that all the fire equipment and safety procedures worked, and that the crew performed well in the emergency.

Captain Larsen, a Norwegian, said he was awakened by a ship's officer at 1:55 A.M. Saturday during the passage from Norway to Denmark as the first of three fires was discovered. "Someone is playing arsonist," he was told.

In Oslo, the police reduced the number of dead and missing to 168, as more missing passengers reported to authorities.

At the Copenhagen inquiry, a fire inspector, Flemming Jensen, described fires in three separate places. The first was in a pile of wooden blankets in a passageway outside a cabin below the car deck. It was quickly extinguished by a ship's officer.

The other two began shortly afterwards in stairwells on each side of the ferry, Mr. Jensen said. The blaze went up the staircases, past several decks and into the main restaurant area, he said.

The three fires must have ignited independently, he said, but he did not speculate on their causes.

After a five-hour tour of the vessel at its mooring in Lysekil, Sweden, Mr. Jensen said only that 5 of the vessel's 15 fire doors closed as they should have during the blaze.

Hatches to the ship's ventilation ducts also were left open, he said. "The fire fighting equipment was in good shape, but it appeared not to have been in use," he said.

The ferry lacked one fire door on the main deck between the restaurant area and the open stern deck, which should have been added during a recent renovation and expansion of the restaurant area, he said.

Captain Larsen conceded under questioning that alarm bells were disconnected in corridors and cabins because of too many false alarms. But he said pressing the alarm button set off lights on the bridge, and each was investigated by an officer.

The Nassau-registered Scandinavian Star caught fire two years ago in the Gulf of Mexico, and a U.S. investigation found flaws in safety and training of the crew.

Captain Larsen, who has come under sharp criticism for abandoning the ship too early, said he and his crew did "everything humanly possible" to save lives before leaving in the last lifeboat.

He said he left when he could remain no longer on the bridge because of heavy smoke.

Captain Larsen, who along with the other crew and surviving passengers was rescued by a Swedish ferry, returned to the burning ship five hours later to help firemen start the ship's water pumps.

He also rejected charges from passengers who said the crewmen did not communicate with them. He said most spoke "usable English."

Captain Larsen broadcast instructions in Norwegian and English for passengers to remain calm and make their way to the lifeboats.

"People streamed up from the bottom of the ship, but there was no panic, except that some children were screaming," he said.

At a meeting late Tuesday, the maritime director of Sweden, Norway and Denmark approved measures to inspect ships flying flags of convenience in Nordic waters.

The commission decided that foreign-flagged ships must undergo safety checks by a Nordic maritime authority, said a statement released by the Danish Maritime Board.

CHINA: A Travel Ban

(Continued from Page 1)

Travelers said the situation in Xinjiang was calm on Wednesday. But an Asian businessman said he had been warned by his driver not to go near a city bazaar because it might be dangerous.

The travelers said they were told while in Urumqi that the army had shot and killed 50 to 60 people in the Kashgar area last week. But none of the travelers said they had witnessed any clashes between troops and residents, and the reports of deaths, although persistent, have not been independently confirmed.

The clashes are reported to have occurred in an area that is mostly populated by Muslims belonging to the Uighur and Kirgiz ethnic groups. Both groups have a history of resisting rule by the Han Chinese, who make up the largest ethnic group in China.

Although Xinjiang is a largely desolate, sparsely populated region, the Chinese government considers it to be of enormous importance. Xinjiang embraces more than 15 percent of the total land surface of China and borders on the Soviet Union and India. It possesses huge, but largely unexploited, oil reserves.

Xinjiang is inhabited by a dozen of China's ethnic minority groups, who still outnumber the Han Chinese in the region despite a steady influx of Han settlers over the past few decades.

Xinjiang's desert has been China's main nuclear weapons testing ground. Foreign analysts say they believe that Beijing maintains more than 200,000 troops in the region.

A military crackdown on Muslim groups in Xinjiang could alienate some of the Middle East nations that China has been wooing in recent years.

Such nations are particularly important to China at a time when relations with most Western nations and Japan are suffering because of the violent crackdown against pro-democracy protesters last year.

A Chinese source with access to Communist Party documents said this week that a confidential circular signed by party and government leaders in early February warned bureaucrats against "subversive" influences emanating from the Soviet side of the border, which might influence minority groups inside China.

An edition of the newspaper Xinjiang Daily reaching Beijing on Wednesday from Urumqi said that in the Yili Kazakh Autonomous Region in northwestern Xinjiang, which stretches along the Soviet border, officials had suppressed certain "illegal organizations" that were "intent on sowing dissension" and "splitting" China.

The nomadic Kazakhs who inhabit this district have clashed in the past with the Chinese.

WORLD BRIEFS

Romania Asks Ex-King to Delay Visit

BUCHAREST (Reuters) — The Romanian government asked the country's former king, Michael, on Wednesday to postpone his first visit to the country since he was forced to abdicate by the Communist regime 43 years ago. But an aide to the former king said he still planned to arrive from his home in Switzerland as scheduled on Thursday for a two-week stay.

In a statement, the government said it had asked Michael to delay the trip until after elections on May 20. The statement said: "His coming to the country in this period might exacerbate existing conflicts and endanger his personal security. There is a danger that the former king will be implicated against his will in obscure manipulations that could affect his dignity and cast a cloud on his family."

Michael, 68, has said restoration of a constitutional monarchy would be in the best interests of Romania. But there is no sign in Bucharest that anyone wants to revive the monarchy. The interim president, Ion Iliescu, a former Communist and front-runner in the election campaign, said Sunday that Romania was, and would remain, a republic.

Hungary Seeks Halt on Soviet Jews

CAIRO (AP) — Hungary's ambassador to Egypt, Erno Simonyi, said Wednesday that his government had asked Soviet authorities to stop letting Jewish emigrants go to Israel via Budapest until the backlog of those already holding tickets is cleared. The ambassador estimated that transporting to Tel Aviv up to 2,500 already ticketed Soviet Jews might take several months.

Reacting to threats from Palestinian extremists, Hungary's national airline, Malev, announced in March that it would transport no more Soviet Jews to Israel, but then reversed the policy for scheduled flights. Charter flights for Soviet Jews are still banned.

In many Arab nations, including Egypt, immigration to Israel of thousands of Soviet Jews has caused complaints. Arab officials, including President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, have complained of threats to the land and well-being of 1.7 Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza, territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

Nepal King Withdraws From Politics

KATMANDU, Nepal (Combined Dispatches) — King Birendra has withdrawn from active politics and wants the government to heal wounds caused by a crackdown on the Nepalese movement for multiparty democracy, Foreign Minister Pashupati Rana said Wednesday. State-run radio announced that all charges would be dropped against demonstrators arrested since the movement began on Feb. 18. The opposition estimates that 300 political prisoners are in jail.

But opposition politicians kept up pressure on the leadership, expressing impatience over delays in establishing new government structures. They want the king to dismiss the government and agree to a constitutional monarchy. Girija Prasad Koirala, general secretary of the Nepali Congress Party, warned Wednesday that the opposition might not be able to contain public anger if King Birendra failed to make political changes by the weekend.

Mr. Koirala admitted that the delay was fueling popular support for the Congress Party, which he said was determined to reach a quick agreement with its Communist allies on what opposition demands would be. Diplomats said the delay was partly caused by differences over who should join an interim government.

(AP, Reuters)

France Denies Offer on Hong Kong

HONG KONG (Reuters) — A British government minister defended on Wednesday his statement that up to 20 countries might grant passports to Hong Kong residents, but one nation, France, said he was mistaken.

In Paris, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said France was ready to offer visas, but not passports, to Hong Kong employees of French companies to be used if they went to France. Other nations questioned the British statement as well.

But Francis Manda, the Foreign Office minister responsible for Hong Kong affairs, said at a news conference he stood by his announcement Tuesday that 20 countries had responded positively to Britain's request for help in granting passports to Hong Kong people facing a return to Chinese rule in 1997. He had said that France had offered 1,500 passports to Hong Kong people employed by French companies.

Belfast Protesters Taunt Haughey

BELFAST (AP) — A crowd of 300 Protestant protesters shouted insults at Prime Minister Charles Haughey of Ireland on Wednesday as he arrived on a visit to the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland. Demonstrators gathered outside the Europa Hotel, where Mr. Haughey delivered a speech to the Institute of Directors in his capacity as chairman of the European Community's Council of Ministers.

The Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and a dozen of his colleagues managed to get through a security cordon around the hotel to the roof of their nearby party headquarters. As Mr. Haughey's motorcade drove up to the hotel, Mr. Paisley and his group shouted "Haughey! Haughey! Out! Out!" and other taunts. The Republic of Ireland, which is 99 percent Roman Catholic, lays formal constitutional claim to predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland.

FBI Arrests Fugitive in Letelier Case

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation said Wednesday it had arrested a fugitive charged with conspiracy in the 1976 murder of Orlando Letelier, an outspoken opponent of General Augusto Pinochet's military government in Chile. Jose Suarez, 51, was arrested in St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Suarez, who had been on the run since being charged in 1978, was due to appear before a magistrate in Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Letelier and an American associate, Ronni Moffin, were killed when a bomb exploded as they were driving to work at the Institute of Policy Studies in Washington. Mr. Letelier had resigned as Chile's ambassador to the United States after a coup led by General Pinochet overthrew the civilian government of Salvador Allende.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Madrid strikers on picket lines at Barajas airport fought to snatch brooms from Red Cross volunteers trying to clear rubbish piled up in a nine-day stoppage by cleaners. Restaurants at the airport were closed because of health hazards. Flights were being delayed as planes are diverted to other airports for cleaning. The strike by 18,000 employees of private cleaning companies is also affecting subway stations. The strikers want a 9 percent pay raise.

British experts unveiled a video system on Wednesday that could alert air disasters by allowing pilots to see the outside of their aircraft. The Royal Aircraft Establishment said it had successfully tested a tiny camera, fitted to the tail of an airliner, that will let pilots watch parts of the aircraft like wings and engines that are normally out of view from the cockpit. Videotapes from the camera would be stored in a container like light and voice recorders to help in any inquiry.

(Reuters)

WEATHER

EUROPE HIGH LOW ASIA HIGH LOW

Amsterdam 12 14 4 6 Berlin 10 12 2 4

Brussels 11 13 3 5 Rome 15 17 7 9

London 10 12 2 4 Moscow 18 20 12 14

Paris 11 13 5 7 Tokyo 15 17 9 11

Stockholm 10 12 4 6 Seoul 14 16 8 10

Oslo 11 13 5 7 Taipei 16 18 10 12

Helsinki 10 12 4 6 Manila 14 16 8 10

Copenhagen 11 13 5 7 Bangkok 15 17 9 11

Bombay 18 20 12 14 Calcutta 19 21 13 15

Colombo 17 19 11 13 Hong Kong 16 18 10 12

Guangzhou 15 17 9 11 Harbin 12 14 6 8

Shanghai 14 16 8 10 Urumqi 10 12 4 6

Yantai 11 13 5 7 Beijing 13 15 7 9

Qingdao 12 14 6 8 Tianjin 13 15 7 9

Wulumuqi 10 12 4 6 Zhengzhou 14 16 8 10

Chengdu 11 13 5 7 Kunming 12 14 6 8

Lhasa 10 12 4 6 Yincheng 11 13 5 7

Xi'an 12 14 6 8 Lanzhou 11 13 5 7

Ulaanbaatar 10 12 4 6 Seoul 14 16 8 10

Manila 14 16 8 10 Taipei 16 18 10 12

Hong Kong 16 18 10 12 Bangkok 15 17 9 11

Colombo 17 19 11 13 Calcutta 19 21 13 15

Guangzhou 15 17 9 11 Harbin 12 14 6 8

Shanghai 14 16 8 10 Urumqi 10 12 4 6

Yantai 11 13 5 7 Beijing 13 15 7 9

Qingdao 12 14 6 8 Tianjin 13 15 7 9

Wulumuqi 10 12 4 6 Zhengzhou 14 16 8 10

Chengdu 11 13 5 7 Kunming 12 14 6 8

Lhasa 10 12 4 6 Yincheng 11 13 5 7

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Manila 14 16 8 10 Taipei 16 18 10 12

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Guangzhou 15 17 9 11 Harbin 12 14 6 8

Shanghai 14 16 8 10 Urumqi 10 12 4 6

Yantai 11 13 5 7 Beijing 13 15 7 9

Qingdao 12 14 6 8 Tianjin 13 15 7 9

Wulumuqi 10 12 4 6 Zhengzhou 14 16 8 10

Chengdu 11 13 5 7 Kunming 12 14 6 8

Lhasa 10 12 4 6 Yincheng 11 13 5 7

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Wulumuqi 10 12 4 6 Zhengzhou 14 16 8 10

Chengdu 11 13 5 7 Kunming

Women's Group Hails Democratic Nominee in Bitter Texas Primary

By Robin Toner
New York Times Service

HOUSTON — Ann Richards, the Texas state treasurer, has won the Democratic nomination for governor, defeating Jim Mattox, the attorney general, after an extraordinarily bitter primary campaign that revolved around allegations of drug use and other personal attacks.

Ms. Richards, 56, claiming victory in the state capital, Austin, declared, "It has been a very long, hard race."

The National Women's Political Caucus hailed Ms. Richards's victory as emblematic of women's political progress and inspirational to U.S. female candidates.

"It's been a long dry spell since Ma Ferguson," said Sharon Riedinger, president of the caucus, referring to Miriam A. (Ma) Ferguson, who in 1924 became the only woman ever elected governor of Texas.

With 96 percent of the ballots counted early Wednesday, Ms. Richards had 615,400 votes, or 57 percent, to Mr. Mattox's 467,740, or 43 percent.

She will face Clayton Williams, a West Texas oil executive who won the Republican nomination last month, and has the luxury of watching the Democrats batter each other for weeks. Many ana-

lysts say that the bitterness of the Democratic race has dramatically improved Republican chances.

Many Texans described the Democratic race as the roughest they could remember, an unrelenting exchange of negative television commercials and extraordinarily personal attacks.

The campaign was dominated by questions of drug use. Mr. Mattox asserted that Ms. Richards used illegal drugs while serving as a county commissioner more than a decade ago. But he provided no evidence for his accusations, citing reasons of confidentiality.

Ms. Richards, a recovering alcoholic, said she had used no "mood-altering chemical" for the last 10 years. But she refused to say specifically whether she had ever used illegal drugs, and her stance only fanned the political fires. She commented on challenging Mr. Mattox's ethics and finances.

The drug issue seemed to backfire on Mr. Mattox in the last days of the campaign. Texas news organizations reported three people's assertions that they had seen Mr. Mattox use marijuana in the early 1970s. He denied the accusations.

Ms. Richards rose to national prominence at the 1988 Democratic National Convention with a



Ann Richards, who beat Attorney General Jim Mattox for the nomination, will face Clayton Williams, an oil executive, in the fall contest. She would be the state's second female governor.

sharply worded attack on George Bush. She has become one of the best-known Democratic women in the country.

The Texas governorship is always viewed as a political prize.

But this year it has attracted even more intense interest from both national parties because of the reapportionment of Congress that will result from the 1990 census.

Texas, which with 27 seats al-

ready has the third-largest congressional delegation, will gain seats. The party that controls the drawing of district lines for representation that will last a decade.

U.S. Democrats Take On Zaire

Threat to Cut Aid to Mobutu Defies Bush's Africa Policy

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — House Democrats, in a challenge to the Bush administration's Africa policy, are moving to cut aid to Zaire to protest the reported corruption and human-rights violations of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Three Democratic Representatives — David R. Obey of Wisconsin, Howard E. Wolpe of Michigan and Stephen J. Solarz of New York — say they will oppose all military aid to Zaire's government, and move to shift most economic aid from the Mobutu government to private voluntary organizations in the country.

The administration is seeking \$56 million in aid for fiscal 1991, which begins Oct. 1. \$4 million of which would go to training and equipping Zaire's military.

"No bill that bears my name will have any money for that turkey," said Mr. Obey, chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations.

In testimony before Mr. Obey's subcommittee on Thursday, Mr. Solarz compared Mr. Mobutu to Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, Eric Honecker of East Germany, Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines and Anastasio Somoza Debayle of Nicaragua.

"Sooner or later, Mobutu will go," said Mr. Solarz, a member of the House Foreign Affairs commit-

tee. "When that time comes, it will not be in our interest to have been perceived as propping up this discredited dictator."

Mr. Solarz estimated that Mr. Mobutu had amassed \$2.5 billion in ill-gotten wealth, including a 16th-century castle in Spain, a 32-room palace in Switzerland and other estates in Portugal, Italy and several African nations.

He also criticized the Zairean security forces for their "unchecked ability to harass and detain political opponents."

Administration officials do not dispute contentions that the Zairean president is corrupt and tough on dissidents, but they see him as a protector of stability in his country

and as a linchpin for U.S. interests on the continent.

They note that in his 25 years in power, Mr. Mobutu granted military assistance to Chad to fight off Libyan aggression and to the pro-Western government of Togo to battle a rebel insurgency.

More recently, they say, Sudan and Mozambique have come to him to help resolve internal conflicts.

The congressional Democrats contend that Mr. Mobutu's usefulness is a thing of the past.

"With the reduction of tensions in the U.S.-Soviet relationship, Mobutu's relevance has been substantially diminished," said Mr. Wolpe.

'We Were Duped,' Marchais Says

The Associated Press

PARIS — The leader of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, says he and his followers were "duped" over the years by Communist leaders in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"The form of socialism put into effect until now in the countries of the East has failed," he said on "The Hour of Truth" television program Tuesday night. It was the first television appearance by Mr. Marchais, 69, since the series of political upheavals in Eastern Europe late last year.

Asked about Lithuania, Mr. Marchais said his party favored self-determination and would condemn any Soviet military intervention there.

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Smokers Cough Up Money For U.S. Anti-Smoking Ads

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — In one of the country's most aggressive anti-smoking efforts, the state of California has begun a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign that will be paid for by smokers themselves through cigarette taxes.

Sharp-edged, sometimes mocking advertisements in newspapers and on television and radio comprise one of the strongest thrusts in the nationwide anti-smoking movement. No other state has undertaken such a campaign.

California's advertisements depict cigarette marketing as cynical and manipulative. They are directed at some of the groups, particularly minorities and women, to which tobacco companies try to market their products. They also tell teenagers that there is no glamour in smoking.

"The objective is to change the image that the tobacco industry has created for smokers — that it's sexy, glamorous, youthful — to it's dumb, dirty, dangerous," said Kenneth W. Kizer, director of the state's health services.

California's campaign comes amid increased pressure on the tobacco industry nationwide. Federal law now bans smoking on almost all domestic airlines; Virginia, the heart of tobacco-growing country, has restricted smoking in public places; cigarette vending machines have been barred in several Minnesota cities, and New York City bars cigarette billboard advertisements on city-owned buildings.

Mr. Kizer said that in the next 18 months California would spend \$28.6 million on its campaign. The money will come from a 10-cent increase in the state's per-pack cigarette tax of 25 cents, which was approved in a November 1988 referendum.

Maker Admits Sending Faulty Bolts for War Jets

By Molly Moore
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A California defense contractor has pleaded guilty to falsifying test results on millions of bolts it produced for some of the military's most sophisticated warplane engines, including the B-1 bomber, according to federal officials.

The bolt manufacturer, MacHaffie Inc., pleaded guilty to submitting fake documents to the military over an eight-year period certifying that its bolts met government standards. This was done even though the bolts had never been tested, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen A. Mansfield of the Central District of California, in Los Angeles.

In other cases, the company sent the bolts to an outside laboratory for performance testing, but when bolts failed the tests, the defense contractor falsified the results to indicate the contrary, Mr. Mansfield said.

The falsely certified bolts were used in some of the military's most advanced aircraft, including the air force B-1 bomber, F16 fighter and A-7 Corsair II attack fighter; the

navy and Marine Corps F-18 Hornet fighter, and the navy carrier-based F-14 Tomcat fighter.

A bolt failure in some of the engines could cause the airplanes to crash, according to prosecutors.

The military has "totally frozen" shipments of the MacHaffie bolts now held in storage, according to the Defense Logistics Agency. Military officials and prosecutors said they did not know how many of the bolts had been installed in working aircraft.

Mr. Mansfield estimated that the company sold nine million bolts to the military and other defense contractors over eight years beginning in 1979. The military has reported no instances of engine failure as a result of the bolts, he said.

The company and its president, Norman MacHaffie, 56, of Sylmar, California, pleaded guilty on Monday to federal charges of conspiracy and making false statements. The company faces a maximum fine of \$1.5 million, and its president could be sentenced to 15 years in prison and fines as high as \$750,000.

Jason Kogin, the attorney for the company and for its president, declined to comment on the case Tuesday.

Two other employees who cooperated with the government in the case pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and making false statements; each faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and \$300,000 in fines.

The military requires that the bolts pass tests for stress, fatigue, structure and other qualities to ensure that they can sustain the rigorous environment of the high-power engines.

Cheney, Angered, Orders Inquiry On Stealth Report

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has ordered an inquiry into why the air force failed to inform him that one of its Stealth fighter planes missed its target during the Panama invasion.

Pentagon officials said Mr. Cheney was irritated with air force officials because he was kept in the dark about the Stealth fighter's performance. The F-117A fighter, an acrobatic cousin of the B-2 Stealth bomber, uses secret technology to elude air defense systems.

Senior Pentagon officials disclosed last week that the plane's first combat mission in Panama was marked by pilot error and a failure, by hundreds of meters, to hit a critical target.

The disclosure was embarrassing for the Pentagon, which has promoted the radar-eluding planes as highly precise weapons. In the days after the Panama invasion, Pentagon officials, including Mr. Cheney, said the Stealth's performance had been perfect.

"The secretary has asked the air force for an explanation," Pete Williams, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said. "He wants to know why he didn't know earlier."

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damse Court" states that the majority of the German Socialist Party is agitating for a speedy peace has distributed pamphlets in Holland signed by Liebknecht, Ledebour, Thälmann, Meyer and Rosa Luxemburg. Their puppets and failed to consult them. Jonas Lie, put forth as Minister of Justice in the Quisling Cabinet, did not know anything about it. King Haakon was at Lillestrom when the Kjeller airfield was bombed. It is not

...known where he is now.

5. 29

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OPINION

Too Much Litigious Ado
For a Walk on the Grass

By Edwin M. Yoder Jr.

WASHINGTON — "Like all the other jurors," The Washington Post reported on the day after Rear Admiral John Poindexter was convicted in the so-called Iran-contra cover-up, the 25-year-old jury foreman, Wayne Mitchell, "knew almost nothing about the affair, but said the prosecution explained it very well, from A to Z."

Actually, what the jurors heard from the prosecutors was more like A to L, with the rest of the alphabet missing.

In the A to L view, the Iran-contra affair could be pictured as a criminal "conspiracy" among Ronald Reagan's confidential advisers, including his national security adviser, Admiral Poindexter. In this version, they concocted a silly scheme to swap arms to the Iranian fanatics (temporarily identified for these purposes as "Iranian moderates") for American hostages held in Lebanon.

When this daffy enterprise and its shady Nicaraguan ramifications were discovered, they took desperate and unlawful measures (including the deception of congressional committees and the destruction of certain documents) to save President Reagan "political embarrassment." Admiral Poindexter said as much to the investigating congressional committees in the summer of 1988. And insofar as the effort

was intended to spare embarrassment to the president, the effort was, the prosecutor has argued, "self-interested."

Well, Congress writes the laws. And federal courts tend to treat jurisdictional quarrels between the two political branches as "political," which indeed they are. It is a pity that Congress does not do the same and has increasingly attempted to criminalize what used to be viewed as the ordinary tactics of constitutional struggle.

The deck, legally speaking, can always be stacked against the president. And with special prosecutors serving as \$20 million congressional errand boys, convictions may usually be obtained from imperfectly informed jurors.

There is another side — the L through Z, if you will — of the Iran-contra affair and the Poindexter case, although a jury chosen for its ignorance of the affair might not have grasped it even if explained. The L through Z is of paramount importance, nonetheless.

It would begin with one of the great birds-and-bees facts of American government: Presidents and Congresses have struggled since the Jay Treaty and Washington's Neutrality Proclamation over which of the two branches is to enjoy the "privilege" of directing American foreign policy.



It would note that since the late 1960s, the quarrel between the two branches has intensified, and that, beginning with the War Powers Resolution of the early 1970s, Congress has more and more sought to impose its will by outflanking presidential tactics it finds unpleasant.

It would note, finally, that such executive skulduggery as there was in Iran-contra would hardly compare in boldness or brassiness to many things done, sometimes in good and defensible causes, by strong presidents of the past, from Lincoln to the two Roosevelts.

It is fudging for Congress to resort to legal fiddling to do what the powers of appropriation, investigation, exposure and, if necessary, impeachment simply equip it to do to hold up its end of the constitutional balance. It is, of course, easier to shirk hard political battles and run off to court.

Admiral Poindexter's chief prosecutor, Dan K. Webb, has declared that the admiral's case was "a very important trial in American history." Mr. Webb is right, although not quite in the sense he intended. The Poindexter verdict may be sound law, in a narrow and technical sense, but it is poor and even dangerous constitutionalism.

Instead of discovering and checking Mr. Reagan's knuckleheaded schemes in a timely fashion, Congress fussed and fumed and added ambiguous riders to appropriations bills. When all this proved ineffectual, it authorized and encouraged the prosecution of the president's aides for the constitutional equivalent of walking on the grass.

Washington Post Writers Group.

A Tyro Finds Bureaucrats
Scribbling True to Form

By Nathaniel Dunford

NEW YORK — Last year I fulfilled a long-standing dream by quitting a job at The New York Times to take a position at half the pay as a caseworker with New York City's Child Welfare Administration. I had a calling; it was that simple. I wanted to help.

My friends thought I was naive or crazy. They warned me that working

where child abuse complaints were phoned in. Then they would be shifted from desk to desk, getting "assignments" — more forms for the case worker to fill out. They would eventually reach our supervisor, to sit for a few more hours and a few more "assignments." Nothing was allowed to interfere with the lunch break. In various parts of the city, the children and the sympathetic adults trying to help them were left to fume, waiting for action.

We, the caseworkers, would finally sit out as the sun went down or after dark often into risky neighborhoods, often in pairs for safety, while our supervisors worried about the overtime that would have to be paid to two people.

Many cases involved Spanish-speaking families who knew little English. You didn't know Spanish — most of it didn't — you were expected to run from unit to unit until you found a caseworker who did and beg him or her to go with you on his or her own time. If you couldn't find someone, tough luck.

One of my cases was a Dominican man with no English at all. He asked his case could be transferred to a Dominican caseworker. My supervisor told me, "We don't have that luxury. In another one of my cases, I found out that there was a child, not on the report, who needed to get into a drug program. My supervisor's response since the child was not on our report he was not our responsibility and I was to do nothing at all."

I finally realized that I was new going to be able to do real social work in a place like that. So I quit, to work for a private agency. But I was not through yet with the city's forms.

There was an eight-page questionnaire about my reasons for leaving, month later, after I had started my new job, came a frantic call from my former supervisor. She had forgotten to have me fill out the form that gets you off the payroll. She sounded scared to death. I went to the office to sign a document that said yes, I had quit. I think I may be unhappy by not wanting to keep Part C of it for my own records.

Later, a notice came in the mail telling me that my fingerprints had to be taken again, and threatening me with "denial or termination" if I failed to comply. A third notice came just last week.

The writer is with Project Life, a private agency that helps adults who have learning disabilities. He contributed this column to The New York Times.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not Just the Poll Tax

Regarding "U.K. Woes Depress Sterling" (Business/Finance, March 22):

The spectacular by-election victory for Labor in mid-Staffordshire indicates a high degree of dissatisfaction with the Conservatives, but it is incorrect to lay the blame for this solely on the poll tax.

The government is now thought by a majority of the public to have mismanaged the economy and made changes in health care, housing and education that were unacceptable and poorly thought out. There is a suspicion that the motivation for these changes is almost entirely ideological. In addition, the personality and attitudes of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have come to be seen, even by many in her own party, as a serious obstacle to the Conservatives securing an overall majority in 1991 or 1992.

The government may be able, as in the last two elections, to arrange a pre-election, short-term boom, so as to gain a fourth term. But for the first time in 11 years the economic and political troubles of Britain place the Conservatives under serious and enduring pressure.

P. F. SMITH,
Reading, England.

Not That Simple At All

Regarding "Look Who Speaks Up for Soviet Jews" (Opinion, March 13):

Stephen S. Rosenfeld writes that a statement by an Israeli leader respectful of the Palestinian interest "would, quite simply, end the Arab-Israeli dispute."

The Arab world has opposed Jews' presence in the Jewish homeland for a century. The reality is that the Palestine Liberation Organization has not renounced the goal of destroying Israel. The PLO continues to make statements to that effect in the Arab press.

Yasser Arafat, as quoted by Mr. Rosenfeld, grants Soviet Jews the right to travel freely (how kind of him!) but does not grant them the right to a homeland.

MATTHEW SAAL,
Oxford, England.

Shanties vs. Cardboard

Regarding the report "Baker and ANC Leader Meet in Soweto" (March 24):

So Secretary of State James Baker finds shantytowns in South Africa "distressing" when contrasted with the wealth of white areas of Johannesburg, and attributes the disparity to apartheid.

If Mr. Baker was sincere, one must assume that he has not been in Africa to the north, where presidents-for-life and their entourages live in a luxury unknown in South Africa while surrounded by slums never to be seen in South Africa.

One could even conclude that Mr. Baker has never really set foot in any African city. When was the last time he stepped out of his limousine or helicopter and actually walked the streets, for example, of Washington, D.C.?

There the homeless would be delighted to have corrugated iron roofs instead of cardboard, and those who do have homes would be happy to be able to venture out of them without the constant risk of being murdered.

What Mr. Baker observed was not the result of apartheid but of a system which simply favors rich over poor.

J. T. BOHMANN,
Meggen, Switzerland.

What About Botswana?

I find it astonishing that Allister Sparks refers, in "Namibia Prospects Surprisingly Bright" (March 21), to Namibia's prospect of becoming Africa's "only genuine multiparty democracy."

Botswana, since it became indepen-

dent in 1966, has held regular multiparty elections that are universally acknowledged as fair and democratic. Botswana's opposition parties are weaker than Namibia's and hold a smaller proportion of seats in the government, but this is due to widespread satisfaction with the government's policies and to the opposition's ineptitude.

Although the chances seem good that Namibia will live up to a very promising start, its government has yet to meet any real test of its democratic intentions.

The world takes it for granted that Botswana's elections are fair. But it is an uncommon thing in Africa, and we should give credit where it is due.

CHARLES E. KRAKOFF,
Hong Kong.

Never Say No to the Pope

Regarding "The Church Is More Than the Vatican" (Opinion, March 13):

I just want to congratulate Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn for his favorite expression, "You never say no to the Church." The Church is the union of all the faithful under one head. Every Catholic should know that wherever the Pope is, there is the Church.

The main problem for the writer of the article is that the Pope has been choosing holy and prudent shepherds for his flock. Is that a crime? I am relieved to know that Bishop Daily barred Governor Mario Cuomo from speaking in Brooklyn's 220 churches about abortion.

HELEN LAWSON,
Lagos.

O, Rare Dave Barry

This Constant Reader is suffering from Dave Barry deprivation, one of the newer and more pernicious ailments. His column is so rare, in both senses of the word. When my Trib arrives, even before taking in the headlines, I check the upper right-hand corner of the pertinent page. If Barry is not there, I suffer. But what delectation when he is! I find myself wanting to make a ceremony out of it: seeking out a quiet corner to sit down and take it in slowly, sipping and savoring it in short bites (bytes?).

Why don't you let us see a photo of him, as you have done with Russell Baker and Art Buchwald? Just once?

ROSE GONZALEZ,
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.

GENERAL NEWS

Walesa Now Asserts He Was Misunderstood

The Associated Press

WARSAW — The leader of the Solidarity labor movement, Lech Walesa, said Wednesday that he had been misunderstood when he said he would run for president and that he meant only that change in Poland should be speeded up.

Mr. Walesa said his "metaphor" to the Polish press agency PAP on Tuesday was a warning to the government to work faster in transforming Poland from a communist to a democratic system.

Despite his comment, politicians were in

little doubt that Mr. Walesa would run for president, with the only question being when the voting will take place. President Wojciech Jaruzelski's term runs until 1995, but there is a possibility that voting will be moved up as part of a general overhaul of the Polish Constitution.

Mr. Walesa, speaking during a visit to his Gdansk union headquarters by the deputy prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Jan Cernogorski, said his remarks would bring a political backlash against him.

"The slogan in which I say that Lech Walesa is ready to run for president means that he wants to speed up reforms," he said, "not that Lech Walesa wants to take the post of president."

There has been no comment from General Jaruzelski or his aides about a presidential bid by Mr. Walesa. General Jaruzelski, who began a trip to the Soviet Union on Wednesday, was elected president in July with the passive support of Solidarity, largely to ensure smooth relations with the Soviets.

Vatican Regaining Role in East Europe

By Barry James

VATICAN CITY — Vatican diplomats, pointing to smoldering tensions in Lithuania and the Ukraine, say cautiously that it may be a long and difficult time before the situation of the Roman Catholic Church returns fully to normal in Eastern Europe.

Still, there is every expectation that the Vatican will soon be able to establish diplomatic relations with most countries in the region and openly name new bishops to lead churches that are reviving virtually everywhere except in sealed-off, militantly atheist Albania.

Relations already exist with Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary. Moscow and the Vatican recently exchanged official representatives at a level only slightly less than full diplomatic relations. Officials say diplomatic ties will be established with Czechoslovakia — a country where until recently the church was severely persecuted — before the Pope travels there later this month.

Whatever the complex causes of the collapse of communism and the restoration of democracy, Vatican officials say, the election of a Slav Pope, the first non-Italian to sit on Peter's throne for 455 years, must surely rank high among them.

"It changed everything," said Joaquin Navarro Valls, the chief spokesman for the Holy See. "People in Eastern Europe regained faith in themselves."

The Pope enlarged their intellectual horizons, Mr. Navarro said, by reminding them that they were part of a wider Europe with a long Christian tradition. At the same time, as a fellow Slav, the Pope was able to give westerners the sense that he was not seeking to westernize them.

From the very start of his pontificate, John Paul made it clear he rejected the postwar Yalta settlement that divided Europe into Eastern and Western camps.

"Do not be afraid," he said shortly after his election. "Open, open wide the doors to Christ. To

his saving power open the frontiers of states, of economic and political systems." Shortly afterward, he proclaimed, "the church of the East is no longer the church of silence, because the Pope speaks in its name."

This was a sharp contrast with the policy of Pope Paul VI, who

From the very start of his pontificate, John Paul made it clear he rejected the postwar Yalta settlement that divided Europe into Eastern and Western camps.

had sought co-existence with Communist regimes in an attempt to keep the church alive. But John Paul retained Pope Paul VI's sunny East European expert Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, now the Vatican's secretary of state.

Cardinal Casaroli attended the 1988 Orthodox Church celebrations marking 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia, and was received by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in a 90-minute meeting at which he handed over a letter and a long memorandum from the Pope.

Mr. Gorbachev sent a reply last year and followed this up with his visit to the Vatican in November. The visit was clearly far more than a formality. According to Vatican officials, Mr. Gorbachev was able to quote from memory whole passages of the Pope's encyclical, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, or the Social Concerns of the Church, which is critical of communism and of unbridled capitalism.

For Mr. Gorbachev, having the goodwill and cooperation of the church is clearly important as a means of keeping social peace during the restructuring of the country, diplomats at the Vatican say.

Roman Catholics form 80 percent of the population in secessionist-minded Lithuania. Byzantine-rite Ukrainian Catholics — who were forcibly merged with the Rus-

sian Orthodox Church in 1946 — are re-emerging as a powerful force in the western Ukraine, another area where secessionist sentiment is rife.

Many Catholics say they see what is happening in Eastern Europe as a miracle they believe was promised by the Virgin Mary in a

series of apparitions to three Portuguese children at Fatima in 1917. The Pope, who was shot and seriously wounded on May 13, 1981, on the anniversary of the first apparition, and who escaped a second assassination attempt when he went to Fatima a year later to offer thanks for his survival, is said to take seriously the Fatima message that peace will ensue after the conversion of Russia.

But the temptation to proselytize actively is tempered by practical considerations — how to assure the survival of the reform process in Eastern Europe and how to get along peacefully with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Thus in Lithuania, whose annexation by the Soviet Union in 1940 it has never recognized, the Vatican has adopted a policy of hands-off concern very similar to that of the United States.

In the Ukraine, the Vatican has disappointed many Ukrainian Catholics by declining to fully endorse their demands for a return to the situation that existed before their suppression, when more than 4,000 of their churches were confiscated and handed over to the Orthodox. "This is not possible," said Archbishop Edward L. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Commission for Promoting Christian Unity.

Followers or leader...

INTERNATIONAL
MANAGER
BY SHERRY BUCHANAN
IN THE HIT TV SERIES
ESSENTIAL READING FOR
EXECUTIVES WORKING IN THE
INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

U.S. Official And Aquino Focus on Bases' Status

President Corazon C. Aquino being escorted to a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday by the head of the Philippine armed forces, General Renato de Villa, right, and an aide, Major General Rodolfo Biazon.

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AMERICAN WOMAN, 35, seeks pos-
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field. R/L, in English literature and art
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ta 6 20272. Numbly Codes, ITALY.

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ATTACHED TO ENGLISH LADY seeks
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MASSIVE seeks position for summer,
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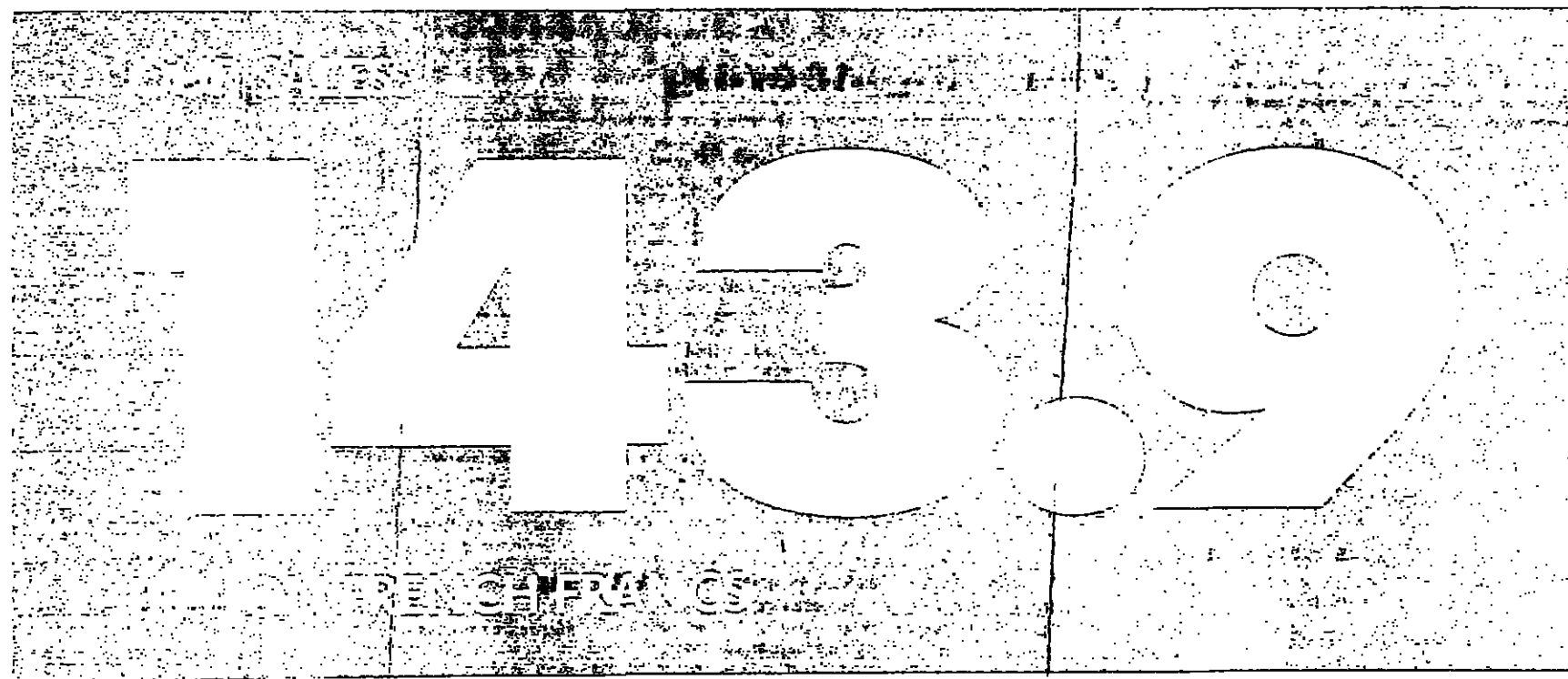
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writing, Tel. Sino, France 79.00.59.
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MASSIVE seeks position for summer,
English, French, Tel. Sino, France
79.00.59.

"CGE NOT EXACTLY A HOUSEHOLD NAME YET WE ARE AN ECONOMIC HEAVYWEIGHT."



You won't find our trademark on any product at any store. And yet in 1989 our sales rose again by 12.5% to 143.9 billion French francs. Our net consolidated income jumped to 7.6 billion French francs producing a net margin of 5.3% as compared to 3.2% in 1988.

These results are the fruit of a clear industrial strategy aimed at positioning the CGE Group as a world leader in the fields of energy and communication.

By strengthening our shareholding in Framatome, we will cover the entire range of energy production equipment while, providing Framatome the means to ensure its future within an international group. A group which will be able to preserve the French and European nuclear industry and the interests of Framatome's personnel.

Our decision to merge Generale Coedentale and Compagnie Electro-Financiere underlines our intention to develop a powerful media and publishing activity capable of meeting international competition.

In the framework of its employees shareholding programme, CGE is to launch a new capital increase dedicated to its personnel.

Today's economic environment continuously exemplifies the fact that unity is strength. Thanks to the competence of its 210,000 employees and the confidence of its shareholders worldwide, the CGE Group is ready to take up the challenges of today and tomorrow.

CGE. Our trademark is not on any product, yet we are everywhere.



New York Times Service

Comm. OCTOBER 1990

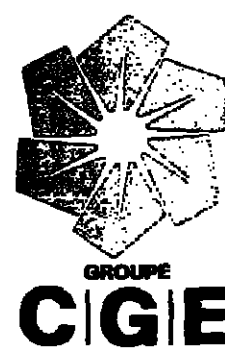
**"FROM NOW ON,
OUR TRADEMARK
WILL REFLECT
OUR ECONOMIC
AND INDUSTRIAL
POWER
CGE WILL BECOME
ALCATEL ALSTHOM."**

You won't find our trademark on any product at any store. And yet at every instant our communication systems and our energy distribution and production equipment service million of people throughout the entire world.

CGE is not exactly a household name, yet we are among the world's largest industrial companies. We are at the leading edge of technology and a world leader in both energy and communication markets.

Today, for our customers, our shareholders and our 210,000 employees, we believe that time has come to state clearly what we have become, with their confidence and their cooperation.

That's why we will propose to the shareholders' general meeting to change our name CGE to ALCATEL ALSTHOM Compagnie Générale d'Électricité. So that, our trademark will reflect our economic power.



Wednesday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect the trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Month	Year	High	Low	Pct. Chg.
Jan	1994	100	100	0
Feb	1994	100	100	0
Mar	1994	100	100	0
Apr	1994	100	100	0
May	1994	100	100	0
Jun	1994	100	100	0
Jul	1994	100	100	0
Aug	1994	100	100	0
Sep	1994	100	100	0
Oct	1994	100	100	0
Nov	1994	100	100	0
Dec	1994	100	100	0

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by Honey Ruckman

(Faint, illegible handwritten notes)

Wage Restraint Call By Bank of France

PARIS — A slowdown in wage increases is necessary to safeguard French exports, the Bank of France said in its annual report released on Thursday. It called for adherence to the government's anti-inflationary policy.

The annual report on the French economy by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, also published Thursday, said France had achieved remarkable results in fighting inflation, maintaining a strong franc and good growth but needed to curb unemployment and social spending and encourage competition.

The Bank of France governor, Jacques de Larosière, said in his report, "In the shorter term, a slowdown in the rise in incomes is necessary to safeguard our price competitiveness and prevent an increase in domestic demand above our industrial production capacities."

On currency matters, he said progress was necessary on international coordination.

"New progress has to be made toward international adjustment," he said. "The persistent rise of the dollar until last fall and the strong

depreciation of the yen did not reflect long-term economic fundamentals; such movements contrasted with the stability enjoyed by currencies in the EMS."

Growth in 1990 and 1991 was likely to slow slightly, but less markedly than in the rest of Europe, falling to around 3 percent compared with 3.4 percent in 1988 and 1989, while inflation should also fall.

One of the main causes for concern is France's unemployment level, one of the highest among the 24 OECD members, the study said. Its reduction required wage rises below the increase in productivity. As for competition, "substantial efforts still need to be made in this area," the OECD said, urging Paris to lift obstacles to competition and end blocks to investment from outside the European Community.

The French government announced Wednesday that it had approved a draft law allowing the partial privatization of state-owned auto maker Renault, enabling a tie-up with Swedish auto maker Volvo AB to go ahead.

The law is to go before the French parliament on April 26 and 27.

'Marriage à Trois' at Scherrer

Seibu and Hermès Take Control of French Couturier

By Suzy Menkes

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The Seibu-Saison group of Japan and the French house of Hermès are taking control of Jean-Louis Scherrer, one of France's few remaining independent couture houses, they said in a joint statement on Wednesday.

A joint venture is being set up by Seibu-Saison and Hermès to hold a 76.5 percent stake in Jean-Louis Scherrer SA and his ready-to-wear Scherrer Boutique. The venture will be owned 65 percent by the Japanese retailing and hotel giant and 35 percent by the French luxury-goods company, who have plans to develop the Scherrer name in new times and on a global basis.

The participants in what they called a "marriage à trois" expressed confidence in the new arrangement, which will leave Mr. Scherrer, 55, with creative freedom and 13.5 percent of the company he founded in 1971.

The designer said that he realized after undergoing major surgery two years ago that he needed to put the business under new management. He turned to Seibu, whom he had known for 25 years and worked with for 10 years as distributor of his licensed products, including menswear, in Japan.

He said he anticipated that the men's line and a collection of "weekend wear," which was a "cherished dream" would be the first fruits of the deal.

"I have no anxiety whatsoever about losing my independence," said Mr. Scherrer. "The Japanese have such a respect for a designer's image and for the personality of its creator. And Hermès has the

dynamism, coupled with a tradition of quality, to help me to become an international fashion house."

Jean-Louis Scherrer started his fashion career at Dior, working as assistant to *Le Maître* alongside the young Yves Saint Laurent. When Mr. Scherrer set up on his own, he established a reputation for elegant, feminine clothes, often using folkloric themes in a sophisticated way. His clients include the wife of the former French president Giscard d'Estaing, Queen Noor of Jordan, Pat Lawford Kennedy and Eunice Shriver.

Mr. Scherrer said Wednesday that there was only four million francs (\$704,000) difference in sales between the haute couture of Saint Laurent and of his own couture line. He also said his house had been profitable since 1976, when he took control of the company formerly backed by the perfume and cosmetics concern Orlane.

According to government figures, Scherrer registered a profit of 6.43 million francs in 1988 on sales of 138 million francs. The Scherrer fragrance is currently licensed to Unilever PLC of Britain.

Kuniko Tsutsumi, Seibu's European head and the sister of the company owner, will be the president of the new holding company, Ilona Gestion.

Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermès, the vice president of Hermès, said that luxury fashion needed both savoir faire and "savoir vendre" — sales know-how. He said that Hermès, a leading silk producer with international experience, would be able to help Scherrer in developing an accessories line, for example. Hermès has cooperated with Seibu for 30 years and has a strong Asian distribution network.

Sweden Rate Of Inflation Rose to 11% In March

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's annual inflation rate climbed to 11.2 percent in March, the government reported Wednesday, a further blow to an economy already showing signs of overheating.

The government reported that consumer prices soared by 2.3 percent last month, up sharply from a 0.4 percent rise in February and far above market forecasts.

"The figure was frightening," said Lillemor Thalin, an economist at Svenska Handelsbanken. "We had estimated up to a 2.5 percent rise but the average market expectation was only 2.1 percent," she said. "Our prognosis for 1990 is now at 10 to 11 percent."

The government said, however, that 1.5 percentage points of the March increase were the result of tax changes that resulted in higher charges for gasoline, oil and electricity. It said underlying consumer price increase was 1.3 percent, or 7.4 percent at an annual rate.

The data were released as the government announced it would lift a temporary price and rent freeze on Thursday.

The rent and price freeze was one of few proposals accepted by the legislature in February when the minority Social Democratic government proposed an emergency strategy to cool the economy.

Ms. Thalin said the rise in inflation could further spur the cost pressures, which are threatening Sweden's industrial competitiveness.

The increase will also complicate the government's efforts to restrain the wages gains to a limit of 4 percent.

"It is likely that there will be strong demands for higher wages now, resulting in further problems," Ms. Thalin said.

The government last week unveiled a new austerity pact aimed at keeping the economy in check, including a 1 percent rise in value added tax and the postponing of a sixth vacation week and extended benefits for families.

The latest belt-tightening proposals have met with sharp opposition from the blue-collar trade union LO, which earlier this week rejected the pact and threatened sharply higher wage demands to soften the impact of the package.

Only an hour after the inflation data was released, the Union for private employees, FTK, demanded that wage talks be reopened.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt Commerzbank	London F.T. 100 Index	Paris C.A.C. 40
2400	2450	2100
2300	2350	2000
2200	2250	1900
2100	2150	1800
2000	2050	1700
1900	1950	1600
1800	1850	1500
1700	1750	1400
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1400	1450	1100
1300	1350	1000
1200	1250	900
1100	1150	800
1000	1050	700
900	950	600
800	850	500
700	750	400
600	650	300
500	550	200
400	450	100
300	350	0
200	250	-100
100	150	-200
0	50	-300

Swissair Sets Its Issue At a 'Friendly' Price

ZURICH — Swissair said Wednesday it was setting at 450 Swiss francs (\$300) per share the price for the 1-for-20 rights issue that it announced in March.

This deliberately shareholder-friendly price should discount the current insecure sentiment on the bourse," Swissair said in a statement, adding the price was for both bearer and registered shares.

Swissair bearer shares rose to 1,015 francs after closing on Tuesday at 1,020. Registered shares were quoted 875 after closing at 850, and certificates at 165 after 168.

Swissair said in March it would increase its capital in two stages to finance future investment.

First it would issue 180,000 new bearer shares and 700,000 new non-voting certificates, with no subscription rights for existing shareholders. This stock is reserved for equity stakes to be taken by Swissair's partner airlines, Scandinavian Airlines System and Singapore Airlines.

Secondly, it would make a one-for-20 rights issue for existing shareholders. Holders of non-voting certificates will also be able to acquire new bearers at a rate of one for 100.

Separately, Swissair said Wednesday that it had tightened its

Trading Brisk In Leu Shares

ZURICH — Trading was brisk Wednesday in shares of Bank Leu and CS Holding.

Following news that CS Holding planned to acquire a majority stake in Bank Leu, the share price of Bank Leu rose.

CS Holding bearer shares fell by 40 Swiss francs (\$26.70) to 2,330. The move on Bank Leu could be costly for CS, the holding company for Crédit Suisse, in the short term and rewarding only in the long term, one dealer said.

Buying focused on Leu's 500-franc nominal registered shares, which closed 110 firmer at 2,680.

EC to Tighten Rule on Grain Sales

PARIS — The European Commission will give final approval in the next few days to a controversial rule tightening its control over private grain sales to major customers like the Soviet Union, EC officials said Wednesday.

The aim of the new rule is to save money on subsidies and to keep tighter rein on how much EC grain is sold to major buyers and when.

The Commission has not yet made any estimates of how much it will save, but grain subsidies constitute a large part of what costs the Community most money — farm spending.

"We can certainly expect the proposal will be adopted over the next few days," said a Commission official in Brussels.

Trading houses and some EC governments say that by pushing the measure through, the Commission is meddling in private enterprise and free trade. They worry the new rule will increase the financial exposure of the export companies that export EC grain.

Under current rules, the Commission sets a subsidy level on

grain sales to major customers such as the Soviet Union and China.

The exporters want as much freedom as possible in their transactions. But it is only because of these subsidies — paid for ultimately by EC taxpayers — that the price of European grains is brought down to levels that are broadly competitive on world markets.

The Commission plan will require trading houses to disclose

Société Générale Profit Increased 17% for Year

PARIS — Société Générale, one of France's "Big Three" banks, reported Wednesday that 1989 earnings rose 17.1 percent, to 3.56 billion francs (\$626.5 million) from 3.04 billion in 1988.

Société Générale, privatized in 1987 while Cédric Lyonnais and Banque Nationale de Paris remained in government hands, said traditional banking, fund management and specialist financing profits were up; bond markets, hurt by rising interest rates, had been disappointing.

how much grain they have contracted to export when they ask for EC subsidies. For grain exporters, this has until now been a jealously guarded trade secret.

When a big wheat sale to Moscow came up in January, the Commission was persuaded to issue export subsidies far in excess of the actual quantity of grain being sold. Exporters asked for about \$25 million more in subsidies than was needed to cover the 2.8 million tons they actually sold.

The new rule will also allow the Commission to cut the quantity of export certificates if exporters' demands exceed available grain supplies. Without these certificates, no EC grain can be sold outside the Community.

The EC trade commissioner, Frans Andriessen, blocked a similar but more stringent plan last autumn after heavy lobbying by multinational grain-trading firms, which dominate the big deals.

But EC officials said the new plan being considered by the Commission will be adopted, partly because it will be possible to re-examine the effect of the rule in 1991.

EC Army of 'Temps' Grows by 15% a Year

Agence France-Presse

BRUSSELS — Temporary contracts are growing steadily in Europe's labor market, and currently involve more than a million people daily across the European Community, or the equivalent of 900,000 full-time jobs, according to a new labor study.

This short-term market has been growing at the rate of 15 to 20 percent a year, and faster in countries where it was only recently introduced, according to the study by the International Confederation of Temporary Work Firms. The rate is expected to increase when the Community's single market is in place after 1992.

Already, Dutch employers are seeking the right to recruit temporary workers from Spain and Portugal for periods of two to six months. The European Court of Justice in March authorized Spanish and Portuguese companies to employ their own workers in temporary jobs in other EC countries.

The European Commission is urgently seeking regulations on temporary work to avoid potential abuse or what has been called "social dumping."

The current European temporary labor market represents 13 billion European currency units (\$15.6 billion). It is concentrated essentially in the Netherlands, Britain, France, West Germany and Belgium.

Current national legislation on the issue varies widely among the EC states. Greece, Italy and Spain, for instance, have laws that make an exception for sales people, and Spain closes an eye to the 15.5 percent who in fact hold temporary contracts.

The temporary worker in Europe is generally young and male, unlike in the United States where the majority are women.

NASDAQ

Wednesday's Prices
NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

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12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. PE Ratio High Low 12 Month High Low 12 Month High Low

12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. PE Ratio High Low 12 Month High Low 12 Month High Low

12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. PE Ratio High Low 12 Month High Low 12 Month High Low

12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. PE Ratio High Low 12 Month High Low 12 Month High Low

12 Month High Low Stock Div. Yld. PE Ratio High Low 12 Month High Low 12 Month High Low

Page 12

AMEX

Wednesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect proposed trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Symbol	Price	Change
IBM	155.75	+0.25
MSFT	100.00	+0.50
GE	45.00	+0.10
JP	48.00	+0.10
W	45.00	+0.10
PG	45.00	+0.10
AT&T	45.00	+0.10
Q	45.00	+0.10
Y	45.00	+0.10
AMT	45.00	+0.10
DL	45.00	+0.10
US	45.00	+0.10
GO	45.00	+0.10
BA	45.00	+0.10
GM	45.00	+0.10
HR	45.00	+0.10
DIS	45.00	+0.10
DUK	45.00	+0.10
ED	45.00	+0.10
EMD	45.00	+0.10
ES	45.00	+0.10
ETR	45.00	+0.10
EV	45.00	+0.10
EX	45.00	+0.10
FC	45.00	+0.10
FD	45.00	+0.10
FE	45.00	+0.10
FF	45.00	+0.10
FG	45.00	+0.10
FH	45.00	+0.10
FI	45.00	+0.10
FJ	45.00	+0.10
FK	45.00	+0.10
FL	45.00	+0.10
FM	45.00	+0.10
FN	45.00	+0.10
FO	45.00	+0.10
FP	45.00	+0.10
FQ	45.00	+0.10
FR	45.00	+0.10
FS	45.00	+0.10
FT	45.00	+0.10
FU	45.00	+0.10
FV	45.00	+0.10
FW	45.00	+0.10
FX	45.00	+0.10
FY	45.00	+0.10
FZ	45.00	+0.10
GA	45.00	+0.10
GB	45.00	+0.10
GC	45.00	+0.10
GD	45.00	+0.10
GE	45.00	+0.10
GF	45.00	+0.10
GG	45.00	+0.10
GH	45.00	+0.10
GI	45.00	+0.10
GJ	45.00	+0.10
GK	45.00	+0.10
GL	45.00	+0.10
GM	45.00	+0.10
GN	45.00	+0.10
GO	45.00	+0.10
GP	45.00	+0.10
GQ	45.00	+0.10
GR	45.00	+0.10
GS	45.00	+0.10
GT	45.00	+0.10
GU	45.00	+0.10
GV	45.00	+0.10
GW	45.00	+0.10
GX	45.00	+0.10
GY	45.00	+0.10
GZ	45.00	+0.10
HA	45.00	+0.10
HB	45.00	+0.10
HC	45.00	+0.10
HD	45.00	+0.10
HE	45.00	+0.10
HF	45.00	+0.10
HG	45.00	+0.10
HH	45.00	+0.10
HI	45.00	+0.10
HJ	45.00	+0.10
HK	45.00	+0.10
HL	45.00	+0.10
HM	45.00	+0.10
HN	45.00	+0.10
HO	45.00	+0.10
HP	45.00	+0.10
HQ	45.00	+0.10
HR	45.00	+0.10
HS	45.00	+0.10
HT	45.00	+0.10
HU	45.00	+0.10
HV	45.00	+0.10
HW	45.00	+0.10
HX	45.00	+0.10
HY	45.00	+0.10
HZ	45.00	+0.10
IA	45.00	+0.10
IB	45.00	+0.10
IC	45.00	+0.10
ID	45.00	+0.10
IE	45.00	+0.10
IF	45.00	+0.10
IG	45.00	+0.10
IH	45.00	+0.10
II	45.00	+0.10
IJ	45.00	+0.10
IK	45.00	+0.10
IL	45.00	+0.10
IM	45.00	+0.10
IN	45.00	+0.10
IO	45.00	+0.10
IP	45.00	+0.10
IQ	45.00	+0.10
IR	45.00	+0.10
IS	45.00	+0.10
IT	45.00	+0.10
IU	45.00	+0.10
IV	45.00	+0.10
IW	45.00	+0.10
IX	45.00	+0.10
IY	45.00	+0.10
IZ	45.00	+0.10
JA	45.00	+0.10
JB	45.00	+0.10
JC	45.00	+0.10
JD	45.00	+0.10
JE	45.00	+0.10
JF	45.00	+0.10
JG	45.00	+0.10
JH	45.00	+0.10
JI	45.00	+0.10
JJ	45.00	+0.10
JK	45.00	+0.10
JL	45.00	+0.10
JM	45.00	+0.10
JN	45.00	+0.10
JO	45.00	+0.10
JP	45.00	+0.10
JQ	45.00	+0.10
JR	45.00	+0.10
JS	45.00	+0.10
JT	45.00	+0.10
JU	45.00	+0.10
JV	45.00	+0.10
JW	45.00	+0.10
JX	45.00	+0.10
JY	45.00	+0.10
JZ	45.00	+0.10
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KS	45.00	+0.10
KT	45.00	+0.10
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KX	45.00	+0.10
KY	45.00	+0.10
KZ	45.00	+0.10
LA	45.00	+0.10
LB	45.00	+0.10
LC	45.00	+0.10
LD	45.00	+0.10
LE	45.00	+0.10
LF	45.00	+0.10
LG	45.00	+0.10
LH	45.00	+0.10
LI	45.00	+0.10
LJ	45.00	+0.10
LK	45.00	+0.10
LL	45.00	+0.10
LM	45.00	+0.10
LN	45.00	+0.10
LO	45.00	+0.10
LP	45.00	+0.10
LQ	45.00	+0.10
LR	45.00	+0.10
LS	45.00	+0.10
LT	45.00	+0.10
LU	45.00	+0.10
LV	45.00	+0.10
LW	45.00	+0.10
LX	45.00	+0.10
LY	45.00	+0.10
LZ	45.00	+0.10
MA	45.00	+0.10
MB	45.00	+0.10
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MX	45.00	+0.10
MY	45.00	+0.10
MZ	45.00	+0.10
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ND	45.00	+0.10
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ST	45.00	+0.10
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TD	45.00	+0.10
TE	45.00	+0.10
TF	45.00	+0.10
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TH	45.00	+0.10
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TM	45.00	+0.10
TN	45.00	+0.10
TO	45.00	+0.10
TP	45.00	+0.10
TQ	45.00	+0.10
TR	45.00	+0.10
TS	45.00	+0.10
TT	45.00	

China's Imports Plummet

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — China slashed its imports by one-fifth in the first quarter of the year, turning a trade deficit into a \$1.63 billion surplus, according to official figures released Wednesday.

An abrupt slowdown in economic growth also accounted for a plunge in the inflation rate in China's major cities to an annual rate of 4 percent in March. The state statistical bureau said inflation was at its lowest point since 1988 and compared with an annual rate of about 24 percent in March last year.

Customs statistics quoted by the official China Daily newspaper showed that from January to March exports rose 13.4 percent, to \$8.95 billion, while imports plummeted 20.2 percent, to \$7.32 billion.

The hefty surplus compares with a deficit of \$1.2 billion in the first quarter of 1989, according to figures released by the general administration of customs last year.

China Daily said exports profited from a 21 percent devaluation of the yuan in December last year, while imports of expensive consumer goods, machinery and electronic products had been brought

Colony's Re-Exports

Agence France-Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's total re-exports rose 26 percent in 1989 from the previous year, to 346 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$44.36 billion), with China accounting for a large portion of the trade, according to government statistics released Wednesday.

Re-exports to China were up 9 percent, to 103 billion dollars, and re-exports from the mainland rose 43 percent.

under control. Purchases of foreign cars, motorcycles, refrigerators, washing machines and television sets fell sharply, the newspaper said. It gave no figures.

A Western economist said the drop in imports was a result of China's general economic slowdown and tougher administrative controls.

"The government has spoken for some time about restricting imports but had little success in the past," he said. "The collapse of

internal demand has also freed more goods for export."

The drop in imports accelerated over the three month period, from a 18.3 percent decrease in January to a 27.9 percent fall in March.

With payments on its \$40 billion of debt approaching a peak period, the government is aiming for a sizeable trade surplus this year, the economist added.

According to earlier customs figures, China posted a \$6.6 billion trade deficit for all of 1989.

On the inflation front, the government said March retail prices grew by 3.3 percent in 35 cities, while the overall cost of living index was up 4.4 percent.

The Western economist said the sharp drop in inflation was expected because of the government's 18-month-old austerity program, which has brought industrial growth almost to a standstill and made several million urban workers redundant.

Inflation would be kept within 10 percent in the first half of this year, said a bureau official, quoted by Xinhua News Agency. Inflation is expected to pick up again as the central authorities inject funds into the economy. (Reuters, AFP)

EC Studies 'Dumping' Of Videos

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Community said Wednesday that it would investigate allegations that China was "dumping" video-cassettes in the EC market at unfairly low prices.

The EC Commission, which can impose punitive duties if it finds "dumping," imports harmed EC producers, is acting on a complaint by the European Council of Chemical Industry Federations.

The Commission said in a statement that CEFIC, representing most EC manufacturers, objected to VHS video-cassettes being sold in China under license of JVC-Victor Co. of Japan.

Dumping is defined as selling goods below their domestic retail price or manufacturing cost. Because China does not have a market economy, which makes comparisons difficult, CEFIC suggested comparing the imported goods' prices with those in Japan or South Korea.

CEFIC said the Community imported 33 million of the cassettes last year against just 1.2 million in 1987. In the same period, the cassettes' share of the EC market rose to 11.8 percent from 0.55 percent, while that of EC producers slipped to 26 percent from 29.5 percent.

"Community industry is alleged to have suffered heavy losses during this period," the Commission said.

At the end of the enquiry, expected to take several months, the Commission could impose anti-dumping taxes on the Chinese cassettes to make the price comparable with that of similar European products.

The Community's use of anti-dumping legislation, a key weapon in its trade arsenal, was recently criticized by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which ruled that certain duties imposed on Japanese electronic typewriters and other assembled products were inconsistent with GATT rules. As a result, the EC may amend its legislation. (Reuters, AFP)

Bond Corp. Posts Big 6-Month Loss

Reuters

SYDNEY — Bond Corp. Holdings, the troubled Australian conglomerate, reported Wednesday a six-month net loss of 758.1 million Australian dollars (\$578.7 million), but officials said they were confident that the company can survive.

Bond Corp. said in a statement that its continued viability depends on asset sales, a further reduction of its debt and a planned restructuring of its finances.

"We are quite hopeful," said Peter Lucas, a Bond Corp. director. "Bond Corp. directors are hopeful of being able to continue with our plan through to survival."

The big loss for the half ended Dec. 31 followed a net loss of \$14.07 dollars for the year ended June 30, 1989.

The six-month figure includes a writedown of 404.54 million dollars on Bond Corp.'s 51.6-percent stake in Bond Media Ltd., as well as realized losses on assets already sold.

Mr. Lucas put Bond Corp.'s total debt at 6.67 billion dollars and said it would be cut by another 600 million when the sale of the company's stake in the Chilean telephone company Compañía de Telefonos de Chile SA was completed.

But profit of about one billion dollars from the planned sale of its Australian breweries to its Bell Resources Ltd. subsidiary would not be recognized in the group accounts because Bell was no longer controlled by the unit, Bond said.

Total asset sales during the six months ended Dec. 31 were 1.63 billion dollars, not including the Chile telephone sale, the sale of a Sydney property or the 1.85 billion brewery deal.

Mr. Lucas said directors based their confidence about the company's survival on the success of its asset sale program so far and continuing forbearance by lenders.

"We've been saying if we are to make it we need the support of our bankers, and that's still true," Mr. Lucas said.

National Australia Bank Ltd., head of two syndicates that have lent the breweries and Bond Media a total of more than one billion dollars, put the breweries into receivership in December but the receivers were removed by after a court fight.

Mr. Lucas said agreement by one of the syndicates to extend its 367 million dollar loan to Bond Media to May 9, subject to new equity partners being found, demonstrated the support of banks had not been entirely lost.

Bond Media is seeking new equity, which will water down Bond Corp.'s holding in the group, and is also the target of a hostile takeover bid by Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man and former owner of its Channel Nine television network.

Michael K. Stephenson, a senior vice president, said Bechtel purposely focused on taking an oversight role rather than that of a contractor in making its bid for the project, due to be finished in 1997.

"This promises to be one of the most exciting megaprojects in the world," said Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Bechtel. The company announced the contract Tuesday but did not disclose how much it would be paid to oversee and coordinate the project.

Bechtel Wins Hong Kong Contract

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Bechtel Group Inc. has won a contract from the Hong Kong government to manage a \$16 billion construction project that will include a new airport, a harbor tunnel, and a rail transit system.

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Bechtel Wins Hong Kong Contract

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng

Singapore Straits Times

Tokyo Nikkei 225

Exchange Index

Wednesday Close

Thursday Change

% Change

Hong Kong Hang Seng

Singapore Straits Times

Tokyo Nikkei 225

Kuala Lumpur Composite

Bangkok Book Club

Seoul Composite Stock

Taipei Weighted Price

Manila Composite

New Zealand Barclays

Bombay National Index

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

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Taipei Nixes Direct Mainland Trade

Reuters

TAIPEI — Taiwan's economics minister on Wednesday ruled out direct trade with China, saying the island's growing economic relationship with its huge neighbor "must be considered on a political level."

The statement was likely to cool hopes among Taiwan businessmen that a new law to be announced soon would expressly permit direct trade and investment in China.

The law, which will govern "people-to-people" contacts between Taiwan and China, is expected to set a legal framework for the Nationalist-ruled island's booming indirect trade and investment in the mainland.

In a speech to the Central Standing Committee of the ruling Nationalist Party, Economics Minister Chen Li-an said Beijing was still attempting to use economic means to subvert Taiwan. "Because the economic relationship between the two sides must be considered on a political level, we cannot risk direct trade," Mr. Chen said.

The debate over Taiwan's trade and investment policies toward China has heated up as the well-known chief of Formosa Plastics, Wang Yung-ching, threatened to flout the official policy by directly investing in the Chinese coastal province of Fujian.

In an open letter published in local newspapers on Monday, Mr. Wang said his plan to erect a naphtha cracker in China would allow him to continue building his business while maintaining his corporate "roots" in Taiwan.

Mr. Wang has emerged as the champion of thousands of Taiwan businessmen who already do business with China, often through Hong Kong or other third countries.

Taiwan investment in the mainland, although technically illegal, is estimated at more than \$1 billion, while indirect trade is predicted to hit \$4 billion in 1990, up from \$3.6 billion in 1989.

Mr. Chen said Taiwan businessmen should be on guard against special deals offered by Chinese officials, which he said are part of Beijing's "united front" tactics against Taipei.

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JAPAN: Heavy Investing in Tomorrow Pays Off Today

(Continued from first finance page)

mate Kimitsu and other plants, an expenditure few of its U.S. rivals could even think of making.

"Cutting back investment in new products and new technology is not a good way to economize," said Koichi Danno, the director of corporate planning for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which has helped lead the revival in Japan's machinery and shipbuilding businesses.

Other companies say they have such huge reserves of cash that they can pay for expansion without resorting to the chaotic markets.

Whether that view is sustained will probably be the true test of the strength of Japan's economy in coming months. While initial surveys indicate that the growth rate in such Japanese investments will decline, the growth will still be far ahead of that in the United States.

Until 1987 the United States exceeded Japan in capital investment. But after a September 1985 international agreement to weaken the dollar, strengthening the yen and making Japanese goods more expensive abroad, Japanese companies mounted a large and expensive effort to automate factories and trim work forces.

The idea was to remain competitive even if the yen approached 100 to the dollar. But no one expected that the high level of spending would persist or that the yen would weaken as it has in recent months, to nearly 160 to the dollar.

International monetary officials met last weekend and expressed concern about the weak yen, but Japanese industry is quietly delighted because exporting is becoming far more profitable.

Japan's leap in capital spending cost less than it would have in the United States because lower interest rates and a surging stock market made it easier to raise money.

Now, as interest rates have risen and stocks decline, some smaller companies have begun to retreat on capital investments.

But most large companies with huge cash reserves are not yet making significant cuts, although there are signs of nervousness. Sony Corp., for example, is said to be scaling back its capital spending plan for this year, though its investments would still rise modestly from last year's high levels.

The capital investments are most remarkable in industries that lack the high-tech gloss of consumer electronics, computers and biotechnology.

In Nagasaki, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. is finishing a new luxury cruise ship, one of several being built in Japan. And in machinery and other heavy equipment, once slow-growing industries, Japan's expansion overseas has created record demands for giant lathes, metal pressing machines and other equipment used to produce everything from picture tubes to auto parts in Japanese-owned factories in Asia and the United States.

For some older industries, new technologies have brought new vigor. Railroad cars makers recently put on display, in Tokyo Station, a prototype of Japan's first linear motor car, a high-speed alternative to the "bullet trains."

The linear cars are elevated above the track and are propelled by magnetic force. The display was

a reminder that, 25 years after beginning bullet train service, Japan is ready to

SPORTS

Gretzky-Led Kings Whip Flames, 12-4, With 3 Hat Tricks

The Associated Press
Just how important is Wayne Gretzky?

The Calgary Flames, who are facing Gretzky's Los Angeles Kings, are one game away from elimination in the first round of the National Hockey League playoffs after winning the Stanley Cup. The Winnipeg Jets, who managed only one victory in 18 playoff

American Joins Soviet Pro Team

MOSCOW — Dale Mulholland, 25, has become the first American to join a Soviet professional club. He came to Moscow last month after signing a contract with Moscow's Lokomotiv, a team in the Soviet second division, and will debut on Saturday in a Soviet Cup match.

Mulholland's one-year contract gives him a monthly salary and bonuses in rubles, a two- or three-room apartment, rent-free, a car, two meals and a Russian teacher.

Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin said Mulholland "will make about 300 rubles a month" — the equivalent of about \$830 at the official exchange rate.

Mulholland said: "It's true that I will be getting Russian money, but I will work with some other companies here in another capacity."

Mulholland comes from Tacoma, Washington, and has played professionally in the United States. He hopes to make the U.S. national team for the 1994 World Cup.

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A Tale of Hard Luck on the Cobblestones

By Samuel Abt
International Herald Tribune
ROUBAIX, France — Rudy Dhaenens does not fool himself about his slight gifts and limited ambition as a professional bicycle racer. "Laurent Fignon wins more than I do, probably because he expects more of himself," Dhaenens said of the rider ranked No. 1 in computerized standings. Entering April, Dhaenens ranked No. 169.

The problem is not only talent

other races, including fourth place in the Het Volk in 1988, seventh in Milan-San Remo in 1989, third in the Belgian national championship in 1985 and second in Paris-Roubaix in 1986.

Earlier this month, Dhaenens nearly won the Tour de Flanders, finally finishing second in a two-man breakaway with Moreno Argentin, a renowned sprinter and a former world champion in the professional road race.

"It was a good day for me,"

CYCLING'S CLASSICS

but also luck. Nobody should know as much about bad luck as Rudy Dhaenens does.

There was the stage in last year's Tour de France, for example, when he broke away alone and had the race won until the final curve, 400 or 500 meters from the finish line. "I took the corner too fast, maybe, or something happened with my wheel, maybe, and I slipped," he recalled. "I still don't know."

His bicycle went out from under him and he was thrown to the road. By the time he got to his feet and found that his rear wheel was mangled, he could only scream in rage as the rest of the pack shot by. From an easy winner, Dhaenens became the last man across the line. It doesn't happen often.

"It just happened, so what can you do?" he asked quietly last weekend as he lounged in his motel room, awaiting the Paris-Roubaix race. "It just happened, it just happened," he repeated.

Victories come rarely to the 29-year-old Dhaenens, a Belgian with the PDM team, and when they do, they are not often in a race as prestigious as the three-week Tour de France or any of the one-day races, or classics, that fill the professional racing calendar in the spring and fall.

"In a race like the Tour de France, I can't hope to win every day," he acknowledged. "When you're a Fignon or a Lemoine, a superman, you have all those days when you can win: the mountains, the time trials. But when you're a normal rider, you have maybe 12 days in the Tour de France when you can win."

In fact, the major victory of his seven-year career was in a stage of the Tour in 1986.

The personable and hard-working Dhaenens has come close in

the top group, usually in the front but never win. And that's what's important in cycling races.

Dhaenens was hopeful about Paris-Roubaix, which is known as the queen of classics because of its age (first run in 1896), its distinguished list of winners (Coppi, Bobet, Merckx, de Vlaeminck, Moser, Hinault, Kelly) and its difficulty.

Run over 265.5 kilometers (165 miles) of flat land between Com-

piègne, north of Paris, and Roubaix, the race includes 57 kilometers of cobblestones on stretches along country roads and through a forest. These cobblestones, some of them huge and irregularly aligned, bounce the riders so

roughly that aches and pains last for a week afterward.

In fact Paris-Roubaix is nicknamed "the hell of the north" because of its cobblestones and their setting of dirt roads. When they are wet, they cause spills; when they are dry, the first riders leave a trail of dust that chokes those behind. Punctures are commonplace.

"It's a lot of pain and misery but it's like a heavyweight cham-

ampionship fight," said Michael Wilson, an Australian rider with Helvetia, an American rider with Helvetia. "You know you're going to get beaten up but without that beating, you're not going to make the big money. So you've got to do it."

Dhaenens usually does well in the race, because it demands the concentration he offers in place of talent. He dreams of winning Paris-Roubaix, and has come close.

In addition to his second place in 1986, he was third in 1987 and fifth in 1985. Those years he primarily assisted his team leader but last weekend he had a rare chance to be the PDM leader, replacing Sean Kelly, who broke a collarbone in a crash in the Tour de Flanders.

"I'm happy with that because I feel the guys believe in me," he said. "I'm on the outside now. We always have good riders on the team and they have the best potential for winning. Plus me, I'm not the winning type. So I did it for them and now the guys will do it for me."

He understood the tactics to be followed.

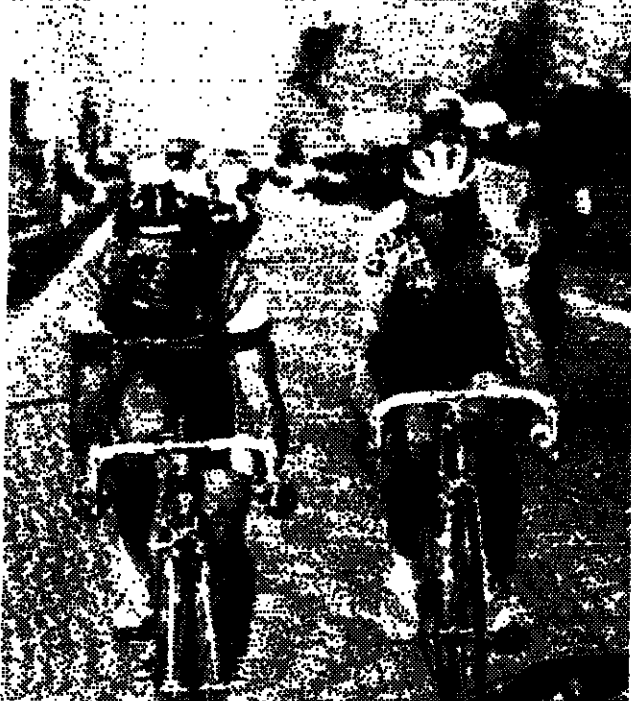
Argentin Wins Second Classic in 10 Days

HUY, Belgium — Italian Moreno Argentin won his second Spring Classic Wednesday, outpacing four others at the Walloon Arrow professional road cycling race in Belgium. Jean-Claude Lecroq of France finished second, ahead of Dutchman Gert-Jan Theunisse and Miguel Indurain of Spain. Argentin also won the Tour de Flanders classic on April 1.

Argentin, 29, who has been struggling in the last few years but still manages annually to win a few small races plus a classic — Liège-Bastogne-Liège in 1985, '86 and '87 — or the Italian national championship in 1983 and again last year.

"There are guys who aren't often good during the year but when they're good, they win," Dhaenens explained. "Like Argentin: When he's super, he wins. He's super maybe four or five days a year, but he wins four of the five times."

"I'm not like him. I'm always in



Rudy Dhaenens, right, and Moreno Argentin, a sprinter, fight for the Tour de Flanders lead. Dhaenens came up short, again.

piègne, north of Paris, and Roubaix, the race includes 57 kilometers of cobblestones on stretches along country roads and through a forest. These cobblestones, some of them huge and irregularly aligned, bounce the riders so

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SIDELINES

UEFA Rebukes

Benfica Chief

BERN (AP) — European soccer authorities on Wednesday rebuked the president of the Portuguese champion, Benfica, who had hinted he suspected an opposing French team of using illegal drugs.

The Control and Discipline Committee of the Union of European Football Associations accused Benfica chief João Santos of "making statements contrary to the sporting spirit" and issued a formal reprimand.

Santos told a radio interviewer that Olympique Marseille players were in "astounding physical condition" for the game, and he added: "For the return match at Lisbon we have asked UEFA to make a doping control."

For the Record

Werner Bremen's international striker, Karlheinz Riedle, on Wednesday signed a three-year contract with the Italian major league soccer club Lazio. Bremen officials said West German newspaper reports said Lazio paid up to 15 million marks (\$8.5 million) for Riedle.

John McEneaney has withdrawn from next week's Philips Open in Nice, McEneaney, 31, said he had shoulder and back problems. (AP)

Portugal will be a fifth candidate to host the 1998 World Cup soccer finals, João Havelange, the president of FIFA, the international soccer federation, said Wednesday. France and Switzerland are declared candidates. Morocco and Brazil are expected to bid. (AP)

Napoli has been awarded a 2-0 victory over Atalanta in a move by Italy's soccer authorities. The match originally was a 0-0 tie, but Napoli appealed after Brazilian midfielder Alemão was hit above the ear by a coin thrown from the crowd 12 minutes before the end. The decision puts Napoli even on points with AC Milan at the top of the first division. (Reuters)

Detriot Tigers manager Sparky Anderson, who has his pitchers intentionally walk Wade Boggs of the Boston Red Sox three times on Tuesday: "You don't have to be a Harvard professor to manage baseball. In fact, I think you're better off having an IQ like mine. It doesn't take a lot of sense to figure out who to walk." (AP)

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BOOKS

BEN HECHT: A Biography

By William MacAdams. 366 pages. \$22.50. Scribner Book Companies, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

At the outset of this admiring, dutiful, exhaustive yet empty biography William MacAdams summarizes his subject's life and makes a bold claim for his career:

"Born during the Mauve Decade, dead at the age of 70 in 1964, Hecht left behind novels, short stories, essays, poetry, plays, musicals, biographies, an autobiography, memoirs, letters, reportage, newspaper columns, eulogies, song lyrics, a children's book, film, book and music criticism, two literary magazines, and a late-night TV talk show. But Ben Hecht will be best remembered because he was the most influential writer in the history of American movies, creating a new and exciting language for the screen at the same time that such writers as Deshael Hammett and Ernest Hemingway were busy revitalizing the novel."

The difficulty with this assertion is not so much its truth or falsehood — legitimate cases can be made for both — as MacAdams's utter failure to present his argument in a persuasive manner, much less to prove it. His biography of Hecht is filled with superlative declarations for which MacAdams presents surprisingly

little in the way of evidence, either documentary or interpretive. His biography is loaded with facts and anecdotes, but they have the cumulative effect of a laundry list; neither in sum nor in part do they tell us much either about the man or his legacy.

In his day Hecht's fame was indeed considerable, and it arose from a number of sources. In his early days as a reporter in World War I Chicago, he was a scoop artist of formidable accomplishments and notoriously aggressive temperament — just the ingredients for fame in those hard-drinking, runyonesque days. He was a figure in the Chicago Literary Renaissance, though he didn't hang around it for long because he decided that "making big money was more important than struggling to become a first-rate novelist."

So off he went to New York, with the woman who eventually became his second and last wife, and in time established a partnership with Charles MacArthur; it produced Hecht's one lasting monument, however slight it may be, a play called "The Front Page" that was hugely popular in its time and has been adapted several times for film. After that Hecht went to Hollywood and sold out, quite thoroughly. He spent the rest of his life in the movies, grinding out screenplays and raking in dollars while cursing the hands that so generously fed him.

Pictures of Hecht painted in the memoirs and biographies of others, even when intended to be friendly, tend to

depict a sour, mean, acquisitive man with a quick wit and a rare ear for the language. But the reader will look long and hard in MacAdams's biography to find what could be called a portrait of his subject.

For all the years MacAdams has devoted to Hecht, for all the research he has done on such questions as whether Hecht should or should not have received a screen credit for such and such a film, he has succeeded only in giving us the trivia while overlooking the man.

As for Hecht the screenwriter of such ostensibly vast influence, it is true that his gift for fast, irreverent, street-wise dialogue — especially as shown in his screenplays for "Scarface," "The Front Page" and "Twentieth Century" — helped bring a certain realism and humor to the screen just as sound was coming in. However great his influence may have been on others, he leaves a very small body of work with which to document it. His screenplays were collaborations, done for money; not one of them seems to have been written because there was a story he had to tell, because he had something — other than "gimme" — to say.

In the end, what his admiring biographer tells us is nothing so much as that Ben Hecht was a man without a soul.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

GALE Greenberg is a grandmaster who has won three world championships. But five months ago, Jill Blanchard, her daughter, outdid her by becoming one of a handful of women who have qualified for playoffs to select the U.S. open team. A week ago Blanchard beat her mother on a family occasion. It was the opening of the Gotham Duplicate Club, in Manhattan. Brother-and-sister Brad Moss owns and manages the operation together with Ron Hask. Three no-trump would have succeeded on the diagramed deal because the diamonds were split evenly. But four spades, reached by Greenberg after a preemptive raise by East, was a better contract, due to succeed if spades broke evenly or if East held the queen. It failed because Blanchard was West and held the queen persistently, a defense that would not occur to an inexperienced player. The opening heart lead was won by dummy's king, and the spade jack was led for a finesse. West allowed this to win, took the next spade lead, and played another heart. This was ruffed in the dummy, and the closed hand was entered with a club lead to play a third round of trumps. West won and continued hearts, forcing South to settle for down one. Notice that leading hearts persistently would also have been the key to the defense if East-West had been doubled in three or four hearts. If North leads the diamond king, the defenders can maneuver three rounds of hearts to prevent two spade ruffs in the dummy. As it was, Blanchard had a plus score, and had beaten mother on the deal and the evening.

NORTH
♠ J104
♥ K
♦ KQ573
♣ AQ52

WEST
♠ AQ63
♥ J10542
♦ A94
♣ 87

EAST
♠ 82
♥ Q983
♦ 1085
♣ 10863

SOUTH (D)
♠ K975
♥ A76
♦ J2
♣ K104

North and South were vulnerable.
The bidding:
South West North East
Pass 10 Pass 30
4-4 Pass Pass 30
West led the heart four.

DOONESBURY

HI, IS THIS FISH MARKET? NEW FISH MARKET! GIVE US BASS OR WHATEVER GREAT! I LIKE TO ORDER SOME GROCERIES!

LENNIE: SEE... WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THAT'S SHAPED LIKE A FISH? CHUCKLE: FISH! SUGAR-FREE, ALAR-FREE, CHEMICAL-FREE, FREE!

OKAY... GOOD. I'LL TAKE A DOZEN. THE NAMES DOONESBURY. 141 AVENUE B, APARTMENT 4-B. OKAY? THANKS.

SO WHAT'S FOR DINNER? POT HOLDERS.

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I THINK MR. WALSON IS GETTING FORGOTTEN. YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THE NAMES HE CALLED ME TODAY. NONE OF THEM WERE EVEN CLOSE TO DENNIS."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Merrill Arnold and Bob Lee

BOYS! THEY'RE JUST HOBBLES!! THAT'S TRUE, DEAR... BUT THEY OFTEN GROW INTO THE MEN.

I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?

PEANUTS

FIELD TRIPS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE VERY EDUCATIONAL. I WONDER WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TODAY... EVEN IF YOU STAND UNDER A TREE YOU STILL GET WET!

BEETLE BAILEY

WE'LL EXCHANGE THIS PRISONER FOR ONE OF OUR MEN. OKAY. HOW COME YOU'RE ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO GET CAPTURED? I GIVE UP.

ANDY CAPP

CAN I COME IN AND WAIT FOR MY DAUGHTER TO GET HOME FROM WORK? IF YOU MUST... DON'T SWITCH THE TELLER BACK ANOTHER MINUTE. I WASN'T GOING TO TALK (

SPORTS

Mattingly Is Latest in Line of Moneyed Yankees

NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE
CLEVELAND — On the morning after signing a \$19 million contract, somebody else might have awoken with a champagne hangover. Or fluffed the pillow and slept until noon.

But if you're wondering why Don Mattingly deserves to be baseball's highest-paid player and why all that money isn't likely to change him, consider the guest book near the weight machines and stationary bicycles in the health club of Stouffer Tower City Plaza hotel where the Yankees are lodged.

Just as the Yankees' opener Tuesday night with the Indians was postponed because of rain, 10 names were in the guest book. Nine were unfamiliar, probably those of traveling businessmen. On the second line, in black ink, was "Mattingly."

If any of the other Yankees had worked out, none had signed the guest book. But after the announcement of his five-year, \$19.3 million deal that begins in 1991 and averages \$3.8 million a season, the Yankee first baseman had dutifully perished. You'd think he was saluting his last \$2.5 million — his salary this season.

In the only Yankee tradition that George Steinbrenner has been able to maintain, Mattingly joined Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Jim (Catfish) Hunter, Reggie Jackson and Dave Winfield as baseball's highest-paid player. At least until Jose Canseco or Bo Jackson gets a better deal.

With a .323 career average after having batted over 300 in each of his six full seasons, with 164 home runs and 717 runs batted in, although he won't turn 29 years old until April 20, and with a threat to

VANTAGE POINT/Dave Anderson



Don Mattingly takes a \$19.3 million swing in batting practice.

test the free-agent market, Mattingly had backed Steinbrenner against the vault. And the principal owner opened it.

"Don Mattingly," the principal owner said humbly, "will attract people to come and see my ball club play."

For now it's still Steinbrenner's ballclub, pending the outcome of Commissioner Fay Vincent's investigation of the principal owner's dealings with Howard Spira,

When cynics questioned the Babe in 1930 for signing an \$80,000 contract when President Hoover was making \$75,000, he replied: "Why not? I had a better year than he did."

But that was the Babe's highest salary. He had to argue with Ed Barrow, the steel-fisted general manager, for \$75,000 in 1932, for \$52,000 in 1933, and for \$35,000 in 1934 before being traded to the Boston Braves.

When DiMaggio demanded \$40,000 for 1938, his third season, Barrow reminded him that Lou Gehrig was making \$43,000 after 13 years.

"In that case, Barrow," DiMaggio said in those years long before agents, "Mr. Gehrig is a very underpaid ballplayer."

DiMaggio accepted \$25,000 that year, but by 1949 he emerged as baseball's first \$100,000 player, thanks to Yogi Berra, then New York's most celebrated saloon keeper. DiMaggio was offered \$85,000 plus an attendance bonus, but Berra advised him to go for \$100,000 without a bonus.

"Be the first to make \$100,000," Berra said.

Don Topping, then a co-owner with Don Webb, agreed to the \$100,000 salary, but Webb demurred.

"I'm not going higher than \$90,000 with the attendance bonus," Webb told Shor.

"Del," said Shor, "ain't it worth another \$10,000 to get your picture in all the papers with baseball's first \$100,000 player?"

Webb's picture soon was in all the papers at a time when there were few television sets. Mantle, who was rewarded

Mattingly's Statistics

Year	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
1981	529	34	79	4	32	.282
1982	483	31	87	23	110	.342
1983	429	24	79	4	32	.282
1984	483	31	87	23	110	.342
1985	429	24	79	4	32	.282
1986	429	24	79	4	32	.282
1987	429	24	79	4	32	.282
1988	429	24	79	4	32	.282
1989	429	24	79	4	32	.282
Totals	4832	415	1286	164	717	.323

with only \$35,000 for his Triple Crown in 1956, finally made \$100,000 in 1963, but baseball salaries didn't soar until Catfish Hunter suddenly became a free agent because of a missed 1974 bonus payment by Charles O. Finley, then the Oakland Athletics' owner. Hunter took Steinbrenner's offer of a five-year, \$3.35 million contract that included insurance policies and attorney fees.

The next year, Reggie Jackson joined the Yankees for \$2.65 million over five years. And when Dave Winfield arrived for 1981 he signed a 10-year \$23 million deal that outsourced Steinbrenner, who had not considered its compound-interest clause.

Steinbrenner's annoyance at Winfield's contract eventually inspired the principal owner's \$400,000 payment to Howard Spira that has inspired the commissioner's investigation.

And now Steinbrenner's involvement with Spira has inspired the principal owner, desperate with what might be a desperate team, to open the vault for Don Mattingly.

If money is the root of most investigations, it's also the root of the last Yankee tradition.

Belcher Pitches 3-Hit Shutout As Dodgers Beat Padres, 1-0

The Associated Press
 It was just another spring training outing for Tim Belcher, only this time it counted for a three-hit shutout.

"I'm still going to treat everything like spring training until the end of this month," said Belcher, who went the distance in the Los Angeles Dodgers' 1-0 National League victory over the San Diego Padres on Tuesday night.

Belcher combined with Juan Samuel, whose home run stood up for the game's only score, to run the home opener for the Padres. The Dodgers also beat the Padres on Monday in Los Angeles in the teams' regular-season opener after a spring training that was reduced to three weeks due to the 32-day owners' lockout.

Belcher, the major league leader in shutouts last year with eight, became the first major league pitcher to pitch nine innings. Bruce Hurst of San Diego, who pitched eight in a 4-2 loss Monday in Los Angeles, is the only other to go at least seven.

"I didn't do a lot of pitching out there," Belcher said. "I threw a lot of fastballs. I threw an occasional good slider and one curveball and one changeup. Outside of that I was just throwing fastballs after fastballs."

Cardinals 4, Expos 2: In St. Louis, Bryn Smith, who left Montreal last fall through free agency, beat his former teammates by driving in the winning run and pitching five innings for St. Louis.

His single drove in Orville Smith and put the Cardinals ahead, 3-2, in the fourth. Bryn Smith allowed eight hits, walked two and struck out one to hand Zane Smith of Montreal his 10th straight loss.

Reds 3, Astros 2: In Houston, Ron Oester singled home Todd Benzinger in the eighth inning off reliever Charley Kestfeld, who surrendered the winning hit for the second straight night.

The rookie reliever, Tim Layana,



READY TO MAKE A PITCH — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada and President George Bush wind up to throw out the first pitches in Toronto, where the Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers, the team partly owned by Bush's son.

pitched two innings for his first major-league victory.

Cubs 2, Phillies 1: In Chicago, Marvell Wynne's pinch single in the eighth inning scored Mark Grace and gave the Cubs the victory as the teams followed a rain-out by opening their season on a cold, windy day.

Ryne Sandberg of Chicago, who ended the 1989 season with a major league record of 90 errorless games for a second baseman, extended the mark to tie the two-season record set by Joe Morgan of Cincinnati in 1977-78.

Blue Jays 2, Rangers 1: In an American League contest in Toronto, Dave Stieb, who allowed just two singles in six innings and did not permit a runner past first base, and three Toronto relievers combined on a five-hitter.

Athletics 5, Twins 3: In Oakland, California, Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire hit their first home runs of the season and Oakland stayed unbeaten.

Canseco led off the fifth with a drive to center off Roy Smith to put Oakland ahead 3-1. McGwire's two-run shot in the seventh came off reliever Tim Drummond.

Angels 7, Mariners 6: In Anaheim, California, Chuck Finley allowed two hits in 6 1/3 innings and Mark Eichhorn finished with two hits in relief for his first save since 1983.

Chili Davis and Dante Bichette each hit solo home runs in the second inning and Brian Downing hit a three-run homer in the seventh.

Red Sox 4, Tigers 2: In Boston, Wade Boggs was intentionally walked a record-tying three times and Tony Peña had three hits and two runs batted in as Boston beat Detroit for the 10th straight time. Boggs' three intentional walks tied a major league record for a nine-inning game, shared by many.

White Sox 5, Brewers 3: In Milwaukee, Lance Johnson's bases-loaded single in a three-run sixth helped Chicago continue its mastery over Milwaukee. The White Sox beat the Brewers in Monday's season opener and were 10-2 against Milwaukee last season.

Scott Radinsky got his first major-league victory.

Average Baseball Salary Rises \$81,000

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The average salary in major league baseball on opening day soared 16.4 percent to a record \$578,930, the biggest off-season increase ever.

This year's increase of \$81,676 was more than \$23,000 higher than the old record of \$58,525, set just a year ago, according to an Associated Press survey.

Salaries jumped 19.3 percent, but only \$47,697, in 1983.

The Kansas City Royals, who signed free agent pitcher Mark Davis and Storm Davis to multi-million-dollar contracts last winter, have the largest payroll in baseball at \$22,178,744, an average of \$821,435. The Royals had the sixth-highest payroll at the end of last season, averaging \$586,261.

The New York Mets, who led last year at \$865,741, dropped to an average of \$761,941, second-highest, partly because they cut high-priced Gary Carter and Keith Hernandez from their roster in the off-season.

The Boston Red Sox, who added free agents Tony Peña and Jeff Reardon, are third with a \$738,272

average. The New York Yankees are fourth at \$728,800 and that doesn't even include the \$19.3 million, five-year extension they signed Monday with first baseman Don Mattingly.

The California Angels, who added free agent pitcher Mark Langston, were fifth at \$723,190.

At the opposite end, the smallest payroll belongs to the Baltimore Orioles at \$89,651,584, an average of \$298,719 per person. The Chicago

White Sox were the second-lowest with an average of \$368,093.

Ninety players were at the minimum salary of \$100,000, including 11 of the 27 White Sox.

Salary figures were obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources and include prorated shares of signing bonuses. The figures include the 702 players on opening-day rosters and the 43 players on the disabled list.

The average salary at the end of

the 1989 season was \$497,254, according to a study by the Major League Baseball Players Association, but that amount includes earned incentive bonuses.

In 1970, the average salary on Aug. 31 was \$29,393. That figure more than tripled by 1978 to \$99,876 and in 1979 topped the \$100,000 mark — \$113,558. In the 10 years from 1970 to 1980, salaries jumped 490 percent to \$143,756.

The average salary this year would have been even higher except that many players negotiated multiyear contracts to lower their 1990 salaries as protection against management's lockout. Still, 152 players on opening day rosters will make \$1 million or more, including 27 at \$2 million or more. Milwaukee's Robin Yount, the highest-paid player in 1990 at \$3.2 million, is the first player to break the \$3 million mark for a single season.

Also, opening day rosters were expanded from 24 to 27 because of the lockout and that added 78 players. If the three lowest-paid players on each team were removed from the rosters, the average salary would increase to \$634,741.

Martin Pal Denies Driving in Crash

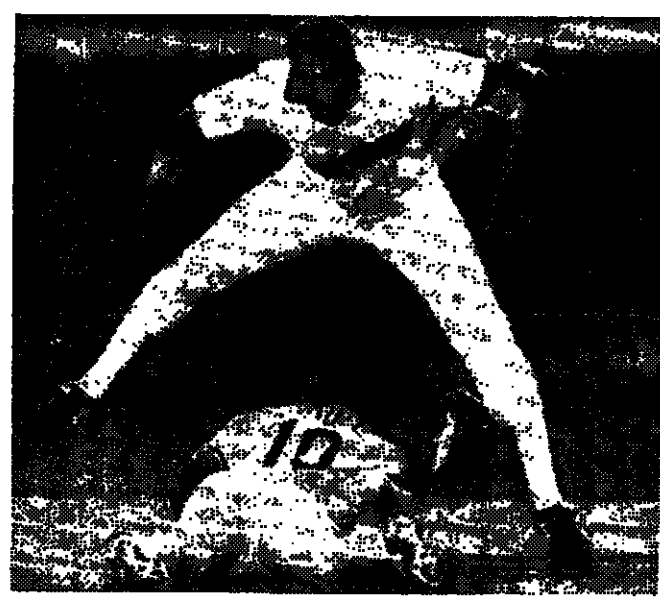
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit bar owner who faces charges in the accident that killed feisty former baseball manager Billy Martin says it was actually Martin who was driving at the time of the accident.

William Reedy told the Detroit Free Press that he lied and told police he was driving to protect his friend, whom he didn't realize was injured fatally in the crash last Christmas. (When interviewed later by The Detroit News, Reedy denied making those statements to the Free Press.)

"I thought he was knocked out," Reedy, who suffered a broken hip in the wreck at Martin's Binghamton, New York, farm, told the Free Press in an article published Wednesday. "I'm going to plead not guilty to driving while intoxicated, or even to driving."

Meanwhile, Tuesday in Binghamton, a prosecutor said no additional charges will be filed against Reedy, 53, charged with driving under the influence when Martin's truck slid into a culvert at the end of his driveway.



Juan Samuel of the Dodgers is tagged out trying to steal second in the first inning. The Padres' Garry Templeton applied the tag.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Boston	2	0	1.000
Baltimore	1	0	1.000
Toronto	1	0	1.000
Cleveland	0	0	0.000
New York	0	0	0.000
Detroit	0	0	0.000
Minnesota	0	0	0.000
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	2	0	1.000
Chicago	1	0	1.000
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
San Francisco	1	0	1.000
Los Angeles	0	0	0.000
San Diego	0	0	0.000

Tuesday's Line Scores

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Boston	2	0	1.000
Baltimore	1	0	1.000
Toronto	1	0	1.000
Cleveland	0	0	0.000
New York	0	0	0.000
Detroit	0	0	0.000
Minnesota	0	0	0.000
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
St. Louis	2	0	1.000
Chicago	1	0	1.000
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
San Francisco	1	0	1.000
Los Angeles	0	0	0.000
San Diego	0	0	0.000

Japan Baseball

Central League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Yomiuri	2	0	1.000
Tokyo	1	0	1.000
Chunichi	1	0	1.000
Hanshin	1	0	1.000
Nippon Ham	1	0	1.000
Pacific League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Saitama	2	0	1.000
Yokohama	1	0	1.000
Osaka	1	0	1.000
Fukuoka	1	0	1.000
Hiroshima	1	0	1.000

HOCKEY

NHL Playoffs

Division Semifinals			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Montreal	2	0	1.000
Los Angeles	1	0	1.000
Philadelphia	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000
San Francisco	1	0	1.000
Los Angeles	0	0	0.000
San Diego	0	0	0.000

CRICKET

West Indies vs. England

Team	W	L	Pct.
West Indies	2	0	1.000
England	0	0	0.000

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Philadelphia	2	0	1.000
Atlanta	1	0	1.000
Charlotte	1	0	1.000
Washington	1	0	1.000
Orlando	1	0	1.000

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct.
Los Angeles	2	0	1.000
Portland	1	0	1.000
Utah	1	0	1.000
San Antonio	1	0	1.000
Dallas	1	0	1.000

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct.
Los Angeles	2	0	1.000
Portland	1	0	1.000
Utah	1	0	1.000
San Antonio	1	0	1.000
Dallas	1	0	1.000

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